NEW WAVE WRESTLING

NEW WAVE WRESTLING'S MILLENNIUM YEARBOOK!

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New Wave Wrestling®

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FEB. 2000
No. 40

WRESTLING & ROMANCE

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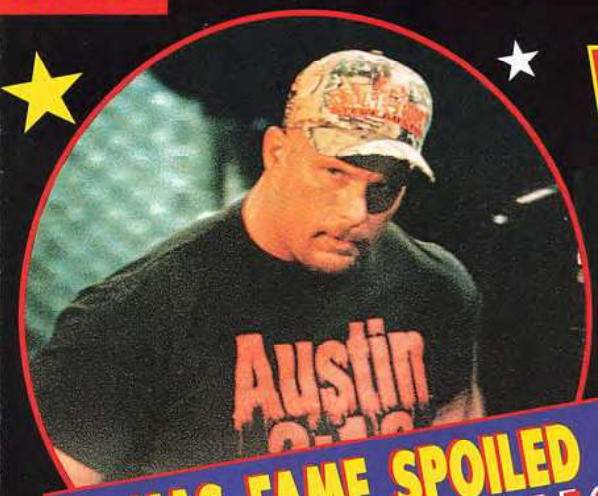

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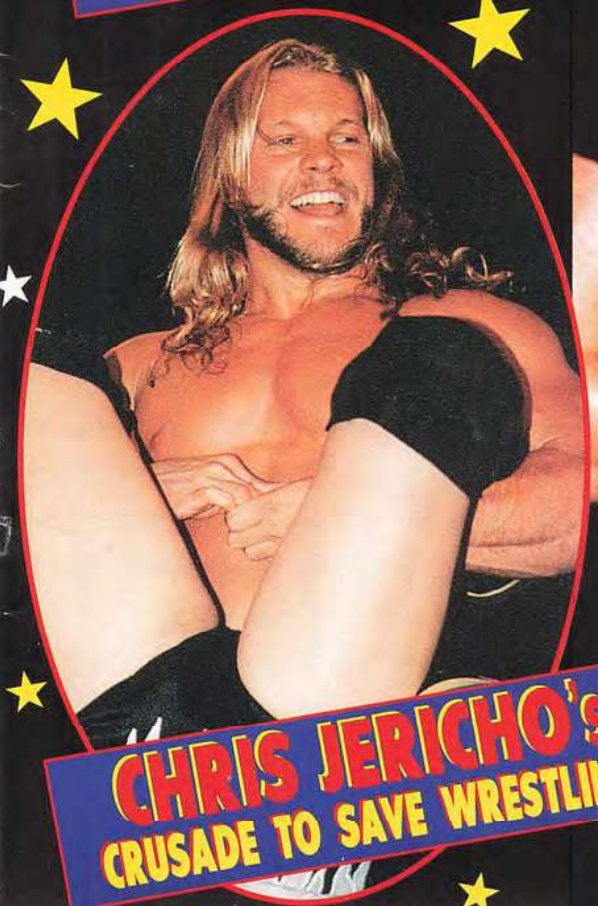

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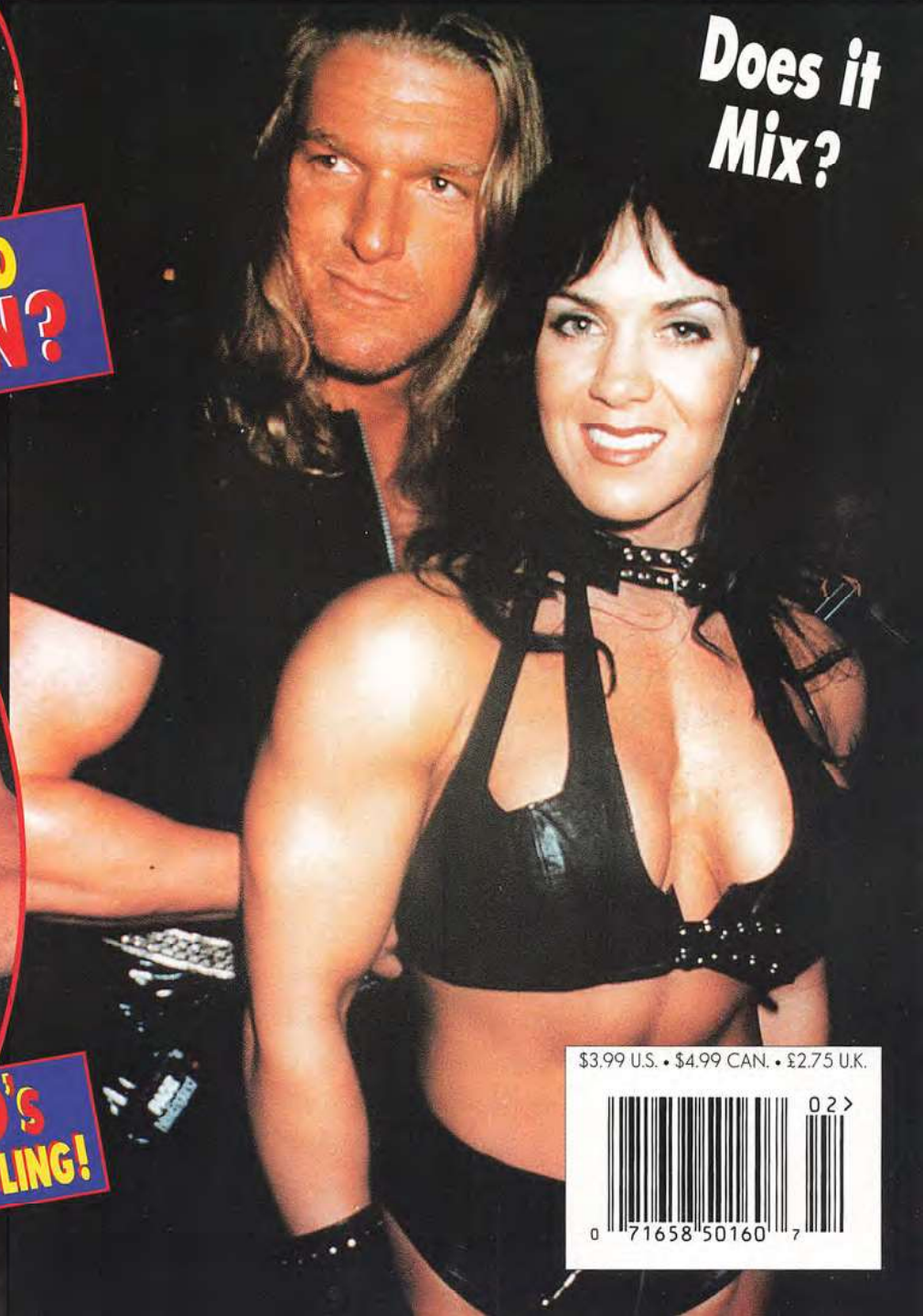

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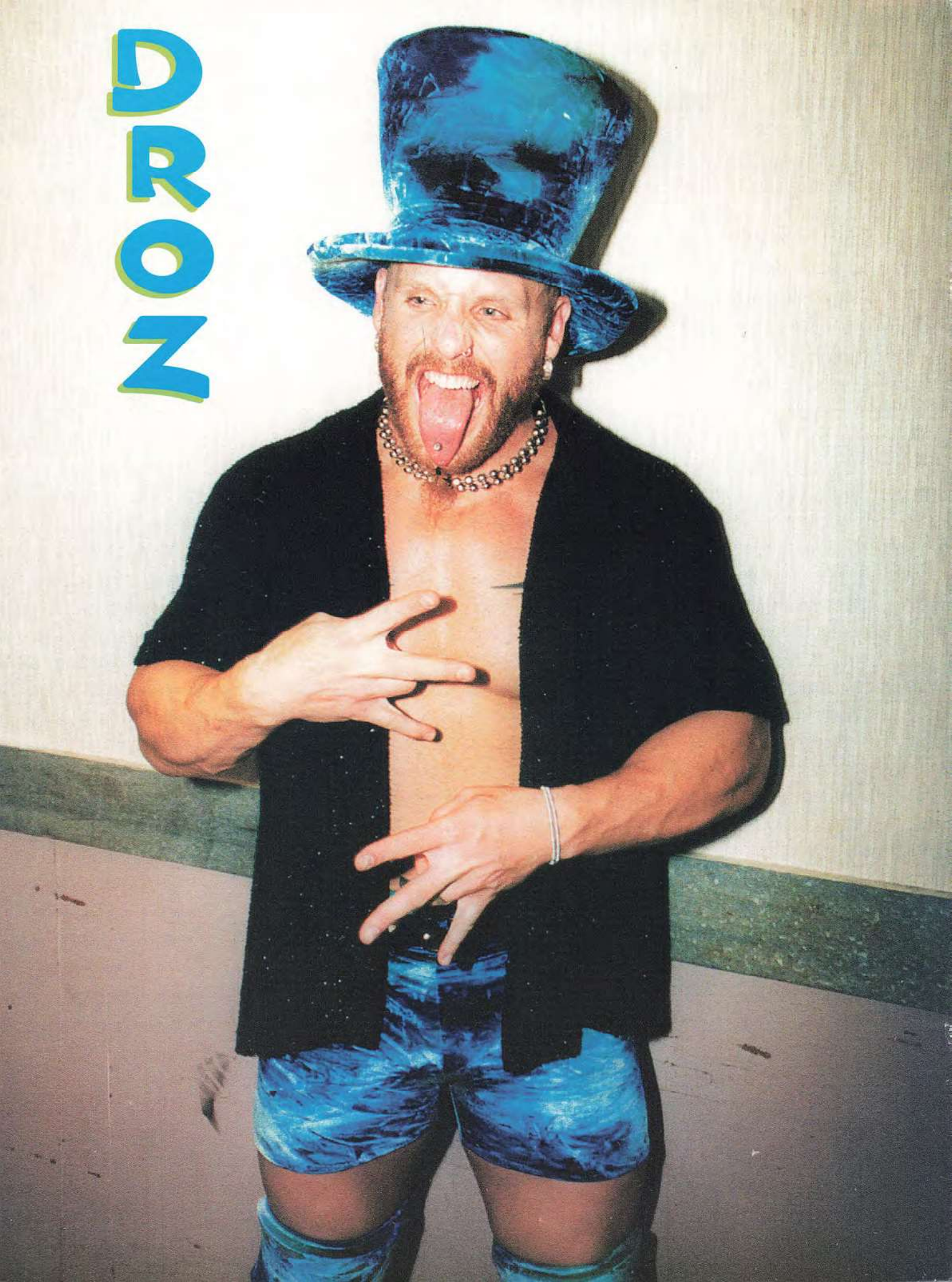
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New Wave Wrestling®

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Color Pinups: Droz, Gillberg (Craig Prendergast) • Chyna & Hunter Hearst Helmsley (Bill Miller) • Hulk Hogan & Jimmy Hart (Tokio Tsukada) • Chris Jericho (Lisa Mantas) • Peaches (Ron McDowell).

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New Wave Wrestling®

OFFICIAL PRO-WRESTLING RANKINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
Top-Ten Heavyweights

1. "Stone Cold" Steve Austin
2. Vincent K. McMahon
3. "The Rock" Rocky Maivia
4. The Undertaker
5. Hunter Hearst Helmsley
6. "The Big Show" Paul Wight
7. "Y2J" Chris Jericho
8. Al Snow
9. "Mr. A." Billy Gunn
10. Jeff Jarrett

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
Top-Five Tag Teams

1. Paul Wight & The Undertaker
2. Rocky Maivia & Mankind
3. Christian & Edge
4. The New Brood
5. The Holly Cousins

INTERNATIONAL
Top-Ten Heavyweights

1. Mitsuhara Misawa (Japan)
2. Keiji "Great Muta" Muto (Japan)
3. Rob Van Dam (U.S.)
4. Vader (U.S.)
5. "Stone Cold" Steve Austin (U.S.)
6. Kenta Kobashi (Japan)
7. "Crippler" Chris Benoit (Canada)
8. Ken Shamrock (U.S.)
9. Manabu Nakanishi (Japan)
10. Danie Voges (South Africa)

INTERNATIONAL
Top-Ten Junior Heavyweights

1. Kendo Ka Shin (Japan)
2. Koji Kanemoto (Japan)
3. Yoshinari Ogawa (Japan)
4. Jushin Lyger (Japan)
5. Rey Misterio Jr. (Mexico)
6. Juventud Guerrera (Mexico)
7. Psicosis (Mexico)
8. Marty Jones (U.K.)
9. Kidman (U.S.)
10. Franz Schumann (Austria)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
Top-Ten Heavyweights

1. Sting
2. "Hollywood" Hogan
3. Goldberg
4. Sid Vicious
5. Bret "The Hitman" Hart
6. "Crippler" Chris Benoit
7. "Nature Boy" Ric Flair
8. "Diamond" Dallas Page
9. "Macho Man" Randy Savage
10. Shane Douglas

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
Top-Five Tag Teams

1. Harlem Heat
2. The Revolution
3. The New Jersey Triad
4. The West Texas Rednecks
5. Sid Vicious & Rick Steiner

INTERNATIONAL
Top-Ten Tag Teams

1. Yuji Nagota & Manabu Nakanishi (Japan)
2. Jushin Lyger & Great Sasuke (Japan)
3. Tatsumi Fujinami & Genichiro Tenryu (Japan)
4. Stan Hansen & Vader (U.S.)
5. Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko (Canada/U.S.)
6. Sabu & Rob Van Dam (U.S.)
7. Los Vatos Locos (Mexico)
8. Johnny Ace & Bart Gunn (U.S.)
9. El Hijo del Santo & Brazo de Plata (Mexico)
10. Tatsutoshi Goto & Michiyoshi Ohara (Japan)

INTERNATIONAL
Top-Ten Women

1. Yumiko Hotta (Japan)
2. Xochitl Hamada (Mexico)
3. Eagle Sawai (Japan)
4. Rosy Moreno (Mexico)
5. De Stubborn Headache (Liberia)
6. Tomoko Watanabe (Japan)
7. Anna "Ring" Marshal (Nigeria)
8. Brittany Brown (U.S.)
9. KC Houston (Canada)
10. Luna Vachon (U.S.)

MICHAEL O'HARA
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

ROMA O'HARA
Managing Editor

"Riotous" ROMA & "Mangler" MIKE
Art Directors

ALLAN "Swingin'" BATCHELOR
Illustrator

"Dapper" DAVE CAMERON
"Dandy" SANDY DeLUCA
"Proud" KATHY DOWD
"Brawling" BILLIE JESSEE
"Reliable" DON LAIBLE
Associate Editors

"Certain" STEVE BURTON
"Hotshot" SCOTT FERENCZI
"Crunchin'" CHRIS POWELL
"Clobberin'" CRAIG PRENDERGAST
"Titanic" TOKIO TSUKADA
"Merry" JERRY WILSON
"Jovial" GEORGE WREN
Photographers

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Official Mascot

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COMMENTARY
FROM THE CUTTING EDGE
by Publisher/Editor MICHAEL O'HARA

Hello, New Waver! I can hardly believe my own computer keyboard as I welcome you to ***NWW's Mighty Millennium Yearbook.*** In this inspiring issue, we bid a fond farewell to the 1990s and embrace the cantankerous new century that beckons us forward with all of the thrills and uncertainties that have become synonymous with the riotous world of rassling! As always, you'll find ***New Wave Wrestling*** filled with the latest no-holds-barred news, vibrant views 'n' scintillating scoops on your fantabulous fightin' faves.

As we stand on the threshold of a new century—a new era filled with unexpected technological advances which will perhaps open up uncharted vistas of communication and entertainment—I am hopeful that the new realms of exchange will indeed offer new paths for exploration rather than more and more of the same old tired rethreads.

Perhaps technology is outpacing humanity, which could account for the uninspired need for the media to rely on more of the same old "stuff." With the advent of the 50-plus-channel cable companies and the 100-plus-channel satellite companies, we're seeing television programs and classic movies played over and over again ad nauseam. In fact, there is one movie—a longtime favorite of mine which shall remain nameless—that is played so often that I simply can't stand to watch it anymore.

In this era of new technology, there must also come a commitment by the information providers to offer something new. The same can be said of professional wrestling, which is experiencing an unprecedented boom in popularity. But rather than explore new faces and champions, the cable TV programmers have taken the easy route and present the standard fare at hand. What we're seeing now is roughly 23 hours of TV grappling divided among a few promotions. In the short run, we're seeing sensational ratings. In the long run—much like Ninja Turtles, Power Rangers, Trolls, and other fads—the general public will eventually look for fresh, new avenues of entertainment once they've experienced wrestling overkill, but it doesn't have to be that way.

In an effort to stave off the inevitable, I'd like to see regional cable operators take some responsibility for their offerings and react to the needs of their community. I can't see why Southern cable companies don't offer Memphis Power Pro in their market. How about Hoosier Championship Wrestling in the Indiana market? For Pete's sake, where's the National Wrestling Alliance—the promotion which can trace its lineage back to (at the very least!) 1948? Shouldn't they be able to secure a niche on the ever-expanding TV schedules?

I am hopeful that this era of more and more of the same programming will go by the wayside. As an avid TV viewer, I can say that my program viewing is on a steep decline because I'm tired of the limited offerings available to me. My attention is being drawn to other media which can offer something satisfying.

Will the internet eventually offer new ways of thinking or merely more of the same old stuff in a brand-new box? Will pro wrestling fit prominently into the future of technology or, much like the advent of television in the late 1940s, is it being used as "cheap" filler until something better comes along?

Wrestling is riding the crest of the wave. Although they won't admit it, TV programmers need the ratings power that the sport offers. The mat game is in a rare position. It can pick and choose with whom it will affiliate itself, but it must take this window of opportunity seriously. I am hopeful that regional promoters will make the best of this situation and present themselves to their local cable operations.

Let's see more pro wrestling on television, but, most importantly, let's see many different promotions which will sustain a viable long-term interest in the sport we love so well.

As always, I look forward to hearing your comments. Please take the time to drop me a letter filled with your illuminable thoughts.

Thanks for tagging in for another issue. Until next time, keep those positive waves.

MICHAEL O'HARA

P.S. Our next issue ***(New Wave Wrestling #41)*** will arrive at your local store on **January 27, 2000**. Did you know you could have it as early as **January 16** by taking advantage of our magnanimous magazine subscription offer! You'll receive 5 info-packed issues of ***New Wave Wrestling***, plus 4 Packs of Professional Wrestling Trading Cards, an issue of our **COMBAT SPORTS** newsletter, and $64.94 in ***NWW*** discount coupons—an awesome $93.39 value—for ONLY $25.00! (see **Page 54** for details).

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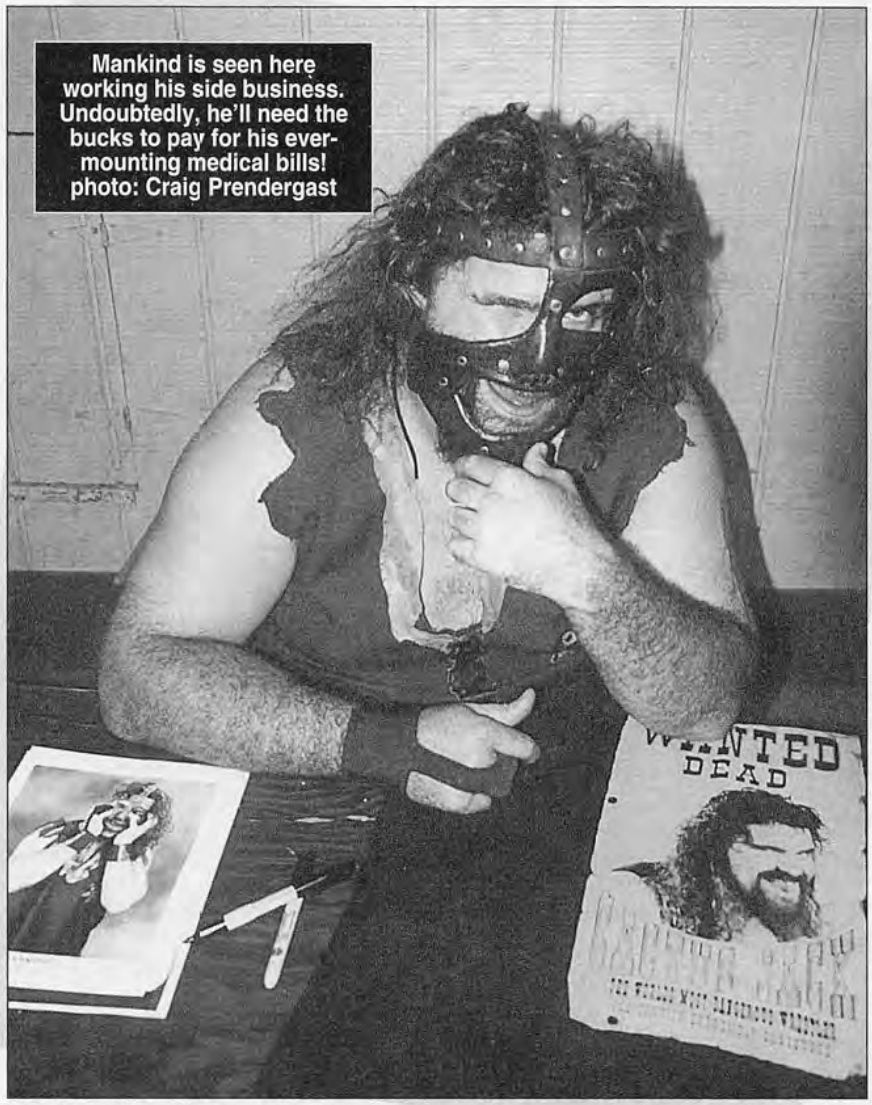
NEXT WAVE NEWSREEL

MAT NEWS OF THE PAST, PRESENT & FAR-FLUNG FUTURE!



Mankind is seen here working his side business. Undoubtedly, he'll need the bucks to pay for his ever-mounting medical bills! photo: Craig Prendergast

• **WWF:** "Stone Cold" Steve Austin (Steve Williams) has been cast in a recurring role on the CBS Friday-night drama *Nash Bridges*, where he'll reprise a role he played in two episodes last year. At press time, Steve is filming in San Francisco, California for the first of five episodes that will prominently feature the wrestling star in the role of Jake Cage, a play-by-his-own-rules cop. Austin was given the role upon the suggestion of the show's star Don Johnson, who sees a tremendous acting career in the future for "Stone Cold."

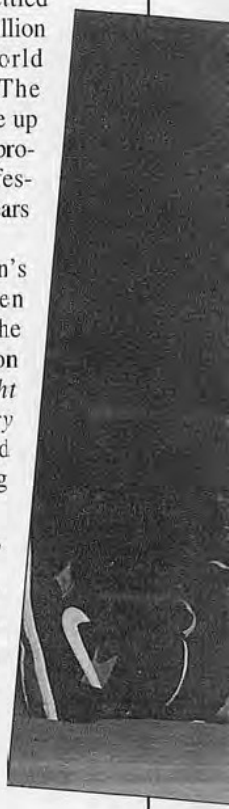
"The British Bulldog" (David Smith), who faced being permanently paralyzed just a few months ago, has quickly made his presence felt in the WWF once more. Making his triumphant return on *WWF Smack Down!*, the burly Brit demolished the Big Boss Man (Ray Traylor) in a mere 59 seconds and captured the Hardcore championship, only to return it moments later to Al Snow (Allen Sarven), who had been feuding with the Boss Man. It will be interesting to see what the Manchester mauler has planned for his future Federation exploits.

The criminal investigation into the death of Owen Hart was recently dropped. The Hart family still has a wrongful death civil lawsuit against the World Wrestling Federation, the city of Kansas as owner and operator of the Kemper Arena, as well as numerous manufacturers involved in the development of the harness used by Owen in the stunt that cost him his life.

As most of you know by now, Rena Mero (the gorgeous grapplerette formerly known as Sable) quickly settled her no-holds-barred $110 million lawsuit against the World Wrestling Federation. The buxom beauty must now give up her ring name Sable and is prohibited from wrestling professionally for the next three years as part of the settlement.

The former WWF Women's champion has become even more visible as a result of the lawsuit and has appeared on such shows as *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *Larry King Live*, *Howard Stern*, and *Politically Incorrect*, among others.

In the coming months, Rena is expected to appear in guest spots on such TV programs as *Walker, Texas Ranger*, *Baywatch*, and *Martial Law*. She is tentatively slated to star in a television series based on the 1985 movie *Red Sonja*,



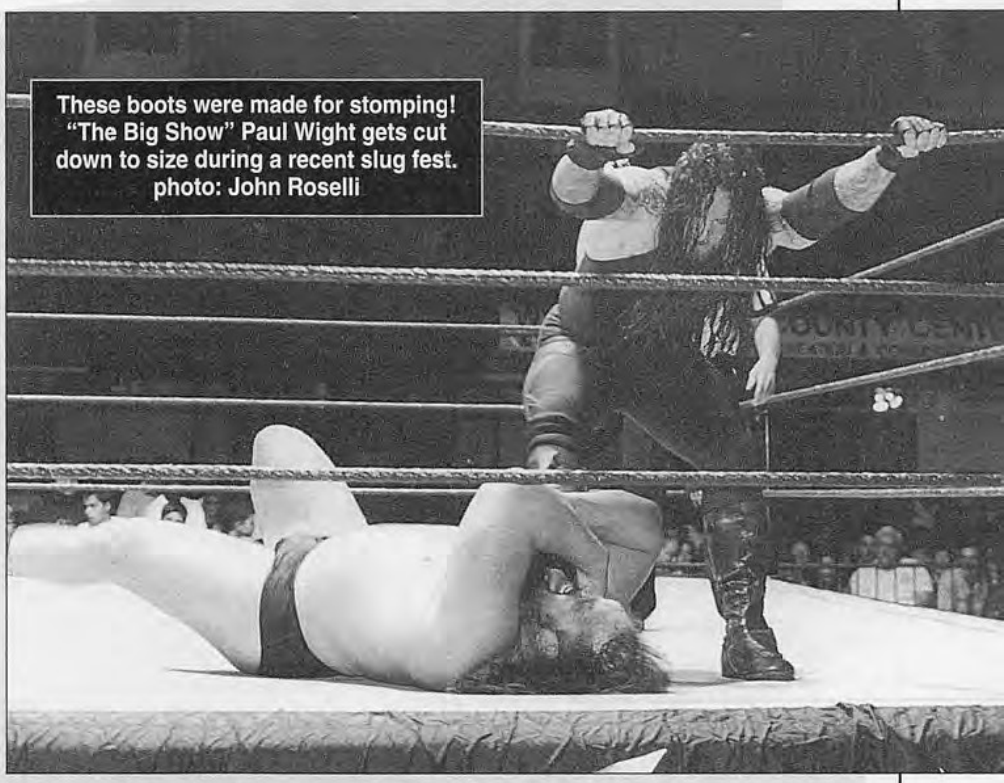
and will play two roles in an upcoming film appropriately titled *Doppëlganger*, and if that still is not enough, she can currently be seen in an infomercial for her newly created abdominal excerciser.

In other legal matters, the Ultimate Warrior (James Hellwig) is reportedly in the process of filing a $15 million lawsuit against the World Wrestling Federation for reasons we're not quite aware of as we go to press. Hopefully, we'll have the complete story in the next issue.

Nicole Bass, the world's largest female bodybuilder, is also filing a $210 million lawsuit against the Federation claiming humiliation and sexual harrassment as well as being hit with a solid guitar, which had not been prepped to easily break as a ringside prop. We'll have more on this as the story develops.

According to a recent TIME/CNN survey, Governor Jesse "The Body" Ventura (James Janos) of Minnesota would grab votes from 17% of Americans in a three-way race for president with Govenor George W. Bush of Texas and Vice President Al Gore, so wrestling's favorite son is becoming a major political force with each passing day.

After intensive physical therapy, "Big Stevie Cool" Stevie Richards (Michael Manna) has arrived in the WWF and is teaming with his old tag partner The Blue Meanie (Brian Heffron) as well as Edge (Adam Copeland) and Christian (Jay Reso). If you recall, Richards suffered severe damage to his fifth, sixth, and seventh vertebrae a few years ago. Most experts believed that this near-fatal mishap was the end of a promising career, but the the tenacious grappler proved the critics wrong.



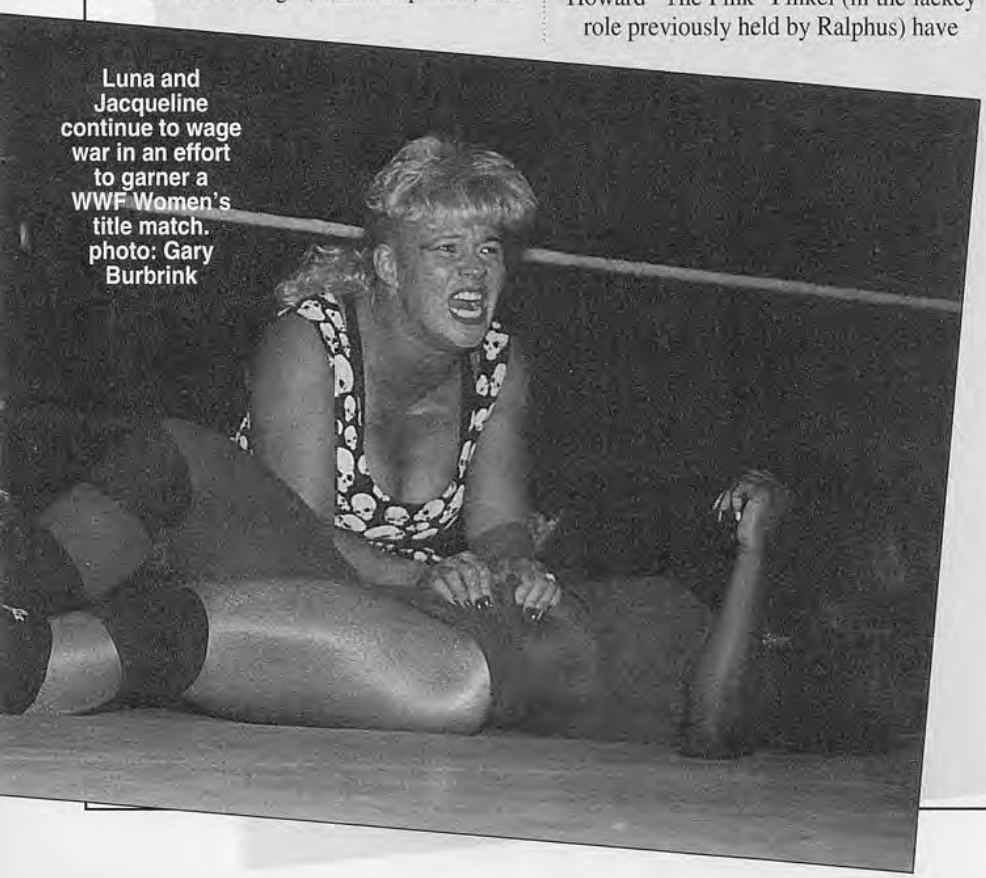
These boots were made for stomping! "The Big Show" Paul Wight gets cut down to size during a recent slug fest. photo: John Roselli

"The Millennium Man" Chris Jericho (Christopher Irvine) and his new sidekick Howard "The Fink" Finkel (in the lackey role previously held by Ralphus) have their hands full with Ken Shamrock, who is expected to return to the Ultimate Fighting sport at the end of this year. Will Ken have his clock cleaned by the "Y2J" or will he swat this "Milleneum Bug" before heading back into the UFC battleground?...The Dudley Boyz—Buh Buh Ray (Mark LaMonica) and D-Von (Devon Hughes)—the former eight-time ECW tag-team titlists, have quickly entered into an unlikely feud with the Acolytes.

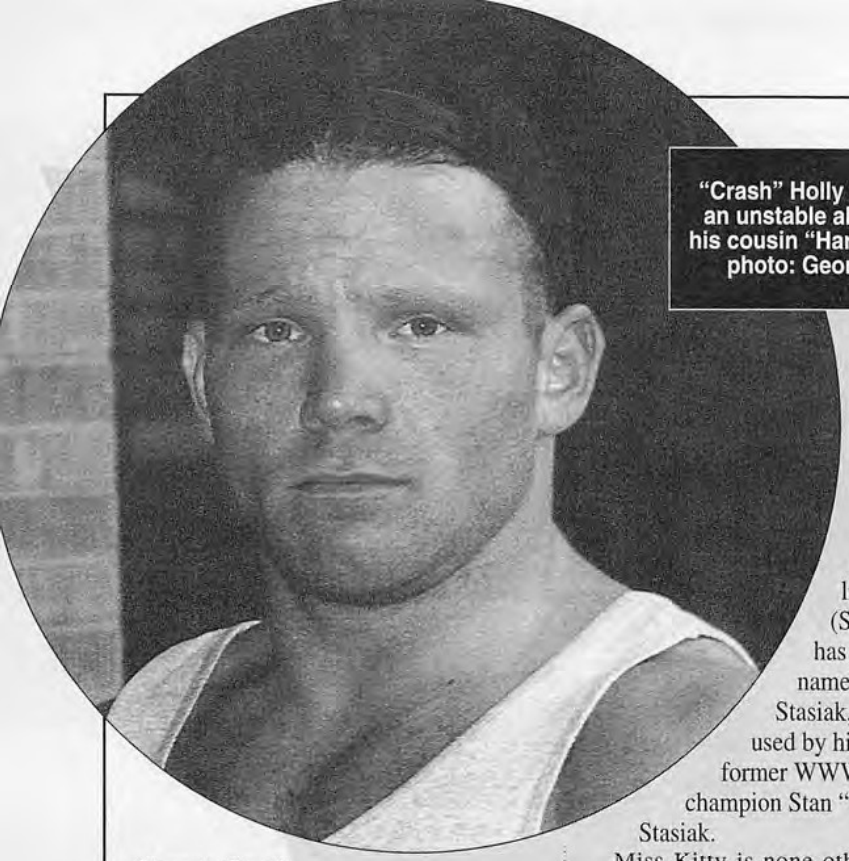
Chyna (Joan Lee) is being positioned as a bona-fide spolier in the men's division. She recently humiliated Jeff Jarrett, "Mr. Ass" Billy Gunn, and the Holly Boys...WWF Women's champion Ivory has her hands full with top challengers Tori and Jacqueline.

Make no mistake about it, after recently attacking veteran grapplerettes Fabulous Moolah (Lillian Ellison) and Mae Young, Jeff Jarrett can no longer be considered a Southern gentleman, but I wouldn't be surprised to see the two mature mat maidens exact revenge somewhere down the line.

Congratulations to the WWF Commissioner Shawn Michaels (Micheal Hickenbottom) and his wife Rebecca who are expecting their first baby within the next few months...Believe it or not, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin and Debra McMichael are dating...Hunter Hearst Helmsley (with an able assist from



Luna and Jacqueline continue to wage war in an effort to garner a WWF Women's title match. photo: Gary Burbrink



"Crash" Holly has formed an unstable alliance with his cousin "Hardcore" Bob. photo: George Wren

Chyna) finally proved his true worth as a fierce, fighting WWF champ...Kudos to the WWF's newest ring announcer Lilian Garcia, who's doing her best to play it straight during those ludicrous interview segments...The A&E's *Biography* series will present the life stories of "Stone Cold" Steve Austin and Mankind later this year.

The filing for an initial public offering of $172.5 million worth of World Wrestling Federation Entertainment stock disclosed a very interesting assortment of expenditures, profits, and perks for the premier wrestling league including proposed multimillion-dollar performance bonuses for both Vince and Linda McMahon upon the successful launch of the IPO.

The WWF hopes to expand beyond their profitable arena and pay-per-view presentations and will use the revenue from the stock offering to develop theme restaurants, hotels, casinos, a record label, a publishing company, and a TV/motion-picture production company.

WWF honcho Vince McMahon has returned in a big way! Because of a strict SEC ruling, "Vinnie Mack" had to avoid appearances on WWF TV programs, but now that the stock has been offered, he's made up for the sabbatical by garnering the World heavyweight championship! (Oy vey!)

For all intents and purposes, The Ministry of Darkness and The Corporation groups have been scrapped. Good riddance to two REALLY dumb storylines...Meat (Shawn Stipich) has taken the name of Shawn Stasiak, the ring name used by his late father, former WWWF World champion Stan "The Man" Stasiak.

Miss Kitty is none other than Stacy Carter, the real-life girlfriend of Jerry "The King" Lawler...Congratulations to D'Lo Brown, who has reportedly lost over 35 pounds!

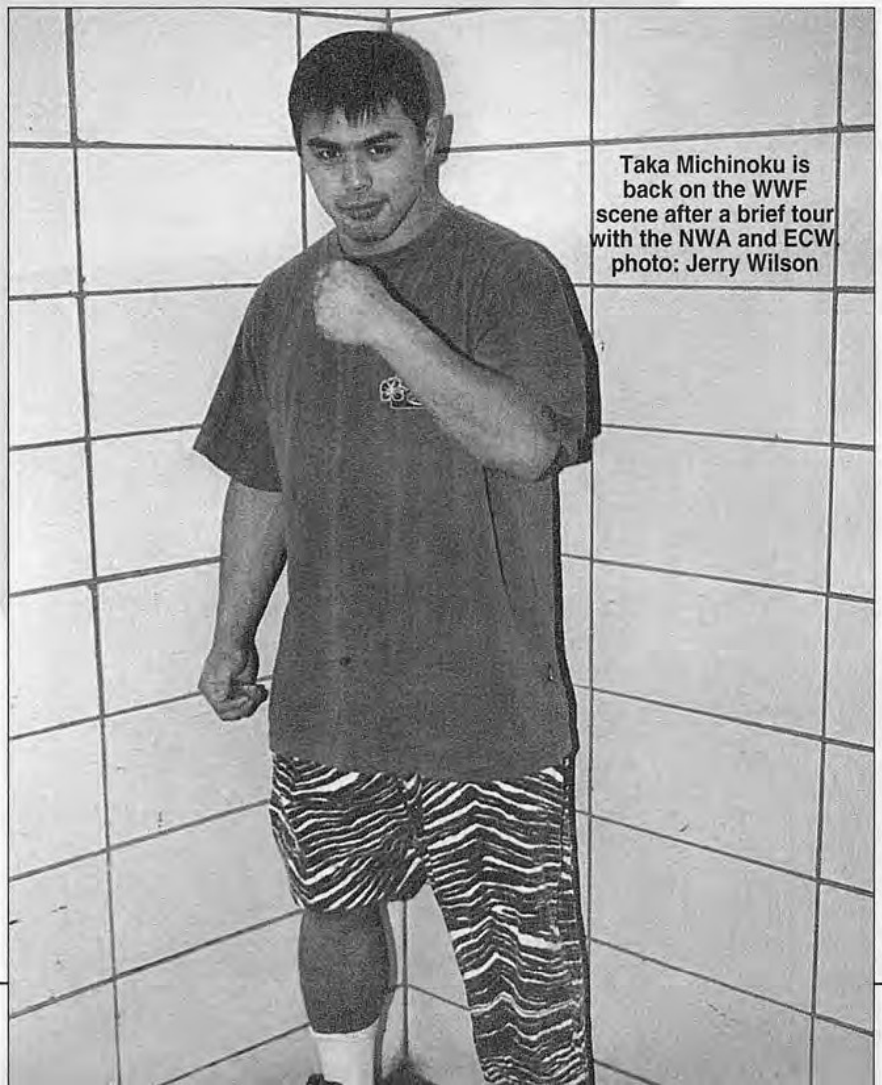
WCW: On September 13, Eric Bischoff was removed from his position as WCW president. The promotion is attempting to revive their sagging cable TV stature against the rival WWF, who has secured an average of rougly 40% more viewers for their Monday-night cable program.

WCW named finance specialist Bill Busch as acting executive vice president of the daily business and creative operations. In the coming weeks, it is anicipated that Busch will be sharing administrative duties with Craig Leathers and "The Nature Boy" Ric Flair (Richard Morgan Fliehr).

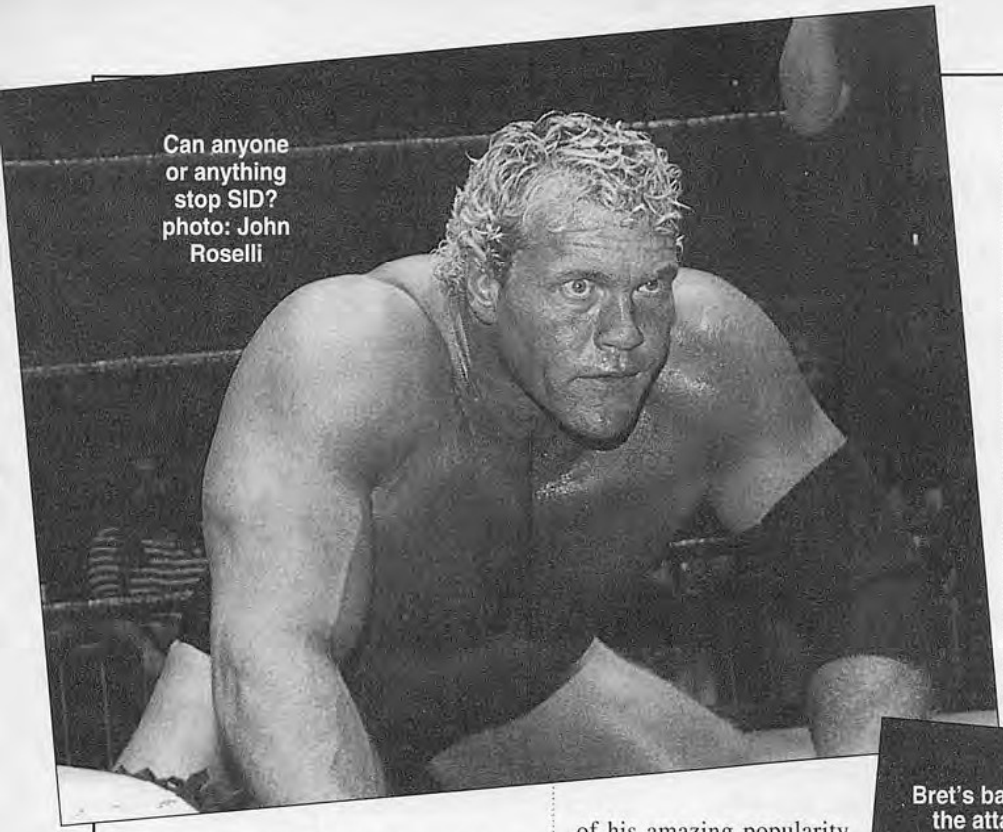
Speaking of Flair, he is once again in the squared circle spotlight. Upon the removal of Bischoff, Ric returned and picked up where he left off.

Flair originally packed his bags and left WCW, allegedly over scheduled matches with Shane Douglas (Troy Martin), who has been publicly denouncing Flair for well over the past five years. "Slick" Ric missed his bookings and was subsequently removed from future bookings by Bischoff.

Flair wasn't the only unhappy camper in the WCW compound. Prior to his dis-



Taka Michinoku is back on the WWF scene after a brief tour with the NWA and ECW photo: Jerry Wilson



Can anyone or anything stop SID? photo: John Roselli

missal, Eric Bischoff called an impromptu meeting of various mat stars at the end of August and offered contract releases to any performer who was not happy with their status in the organization. However, there was a catch (Isn't there always a catch?), the athletes were prohibited from competing or negotiating with the WWF until the actual expiration date of their original WCW contract.

Raven (Scott Levy) immediately accepted the opportunity to leave and has already returned to ECW, the birthplace of his amazing popularity. Kidman (Peter Gruner) has also expressed interest in leaving, but, at press time, we are unaware of his status with WCW. Konnan (Carlos Espana Ashenoff) may also be thinking of leaving. The Mexican mat master recently said in *USA Today* that the league is getting stale, and if you're not connected to the right group of wrestlers wielding matchmaking power, you're relegated to unimportant matches.

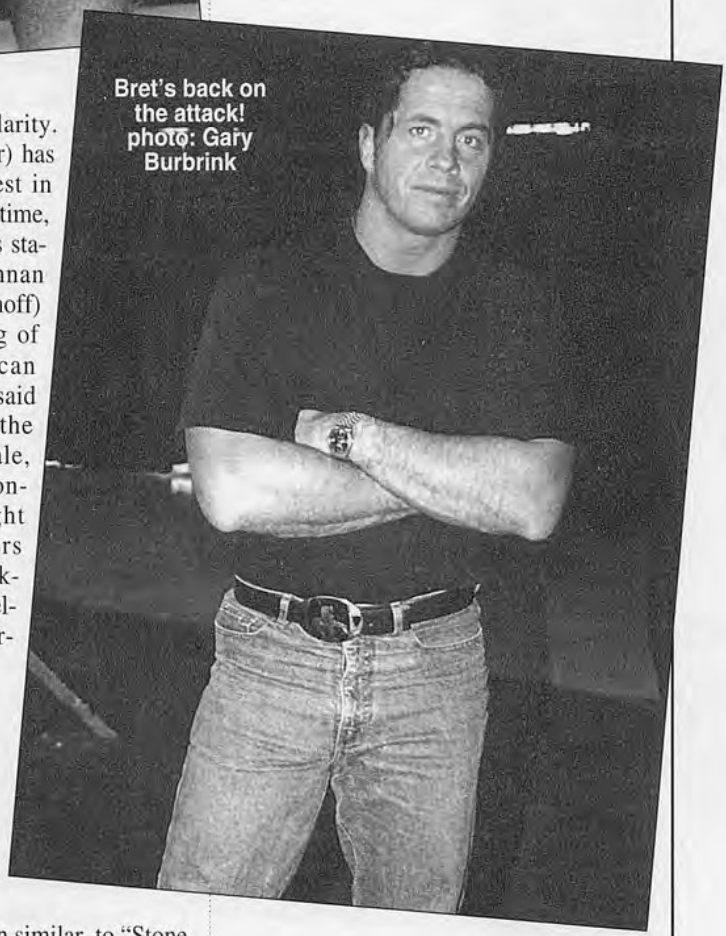
DDP is looking for his next opportunity to strike! photo: Don Laible

Randy "Macho Man" Savage (Randy Poffo) is another top star who is allegedly dissatisfied and feels that he should be promoted in a fashion similar to "Stone Cold" Steve Austin of rival WWF fame.

Berlyn (formerly known as "Das Wunderkind" Alex Wright) shows lots of promise as a techno heel...Bret "The Hitman" Hart surprised fans by returning to WCW and issuing an immediate challenge to "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan. Bret has already tangled with Hulk during a late summer WCW tour of the West Coast. They wrestled to a no contest on two consecutive evenings, August 20 in San Francisco and August 21 in Los Angeles. In both matches, Hart had Hogan in the sharpshooter and was then attacked by Sid Vicious and Rick Steiner.

Vincent (Michael Jones) has entered into a tenuous partnership with the West Texas Rednecks. We'll see how long this lasts..."4x4" of No Limit Soldiers fame looks to be the same wrestler who appeared on numerous East Coast independent shows under the name of Teddy "The Tank" Reade. Can any ***New Waver*** verify this?

Dustin Rhodes (formerly Goldust of WWF fame) is back in WCW...Steve



Bret's back on the attack! photo: Gary Burbrink

Regal has reunited with fellow Brits Dave Taylor and Chris Adams in recent six-man tag action...*First Daughter*, the WTBS cable movie featuring Diamond Dallas Page, drew a respectable rating, so you can expect future roles for DDP in the coming months...Goldberg is waging his own one-man war against the New Jersey Triad. ***NWW***

RETRO RASSLING RECAP

A Summary of Recent Title Changes & Other Lunacy

August 2, 1999 Columbus, Ohio—WWF Raw/War Zone: European champ D'Lo Brown pinned Jeff Jarrett at 6:11 to win the Intercontinental title.

August 9, 1999 Chicago, Illinois—WWF Raw/War Zone: Kane (Glen Jacobs) & X-Pac (Sean Waltman) defeated The Acolytes—Faarooq (Ron Simmons) & Bradshaw (John Hawk)—for the World tag-team titles at 4:36. (X-Pac pinned Faarooq.)

• "Y2J" Chris Jericho made his WWF debut as the Millennium Man.

August 9, 1999 Boise, Idaho—WCW Monday Nitro: Chris Benoit pinned David Flair (David Fliehr) at 4:05 to win the WCW United States gold.

August 15, 1999 Sturgis, South Dakota—WCW Road Wild pay per view: WCW champ Hulk Hogan (Terry Bollea) pinned Kevin Nash in a loser-must-leave-WCW match.

• Harlem Heat—Booker T (Booker Huffman) & Stevie Ray (Lane Huffman)—defeated Bam Bam Bigelow & Kanyon for the WCW tag-team titles.

August 16, 1999 Milwaukee, Wisconsin—WWF Raw/War Zone: "Hardcore" Holly (William Robert Howard) introduces his tag-team cousin—"Crash" Holly (Erin O'Grady).

August 19, 1999 Lubbock, Texas—WCW Thunder: Lenny Lane pinned Rey Misterio Jr. (Oscar Gonzales) at 7:03 for the World cruiserweight belt.

August 22, 1999 Minneapolis, Minnesota—WWF SummerSlam pay per view: Mankind pinned Steve Austin (Steve Williams) for the WWF World heavyweight gold. The special referee was Governor Jesse Ventura.

• Al Snow (Allen Sarven) defeated Big Boss Man (Ray Traylor) for the Hardcore title. (Boss kidnapped Al's dog Pepper at the end of the match.)

• The Undertaker & Paul Wight beat X-Pac & Kane for the WWF World tag straps. (The Undertaker pinned X-Pac.)

• Test (Andrew Martin) defeated Shane McMahon with the stipulation that Shane must now leave Test and Stephanie McMahon alone.

• Intercontinental champion Jeff Jarrett pinned D'Lo Brown to regain the European title. (Mark Henry clobbered D'Lo with a guitar to set up the pinfall.)

August 23, 1999 Ames, Iowa—WWF Raw/War Zone: Jeff Jarrett awards the European title to Mark Henry.

• Miss Kitty (Stacy Carter) joins Debra McMichael as Jeff Jarrett's valet.

• Hunter Hearst Helmsley (Paul Michael LeVesque) pinned Mankind (Michael Foley) for the WWF World heavyweight title at 8:41.

August 23, 1999 Las Vegas, Nevada—WCW Nitro: Kendall & Barry Windham beat Harlem Heat for the WCW tag belts.

August 24, 1999 Kansas City, Missouri—WWF Smack Down! (broadcasted on 8/26/99): Rocky Maivia & Mankind defeated Paul Wight & The Undertaker at 8:12 for the WWF World tag titles.

August 30, 1999 Boston, Massachusetts—WWF Raw • War Zone: Rocky Maivia & Mankind beat Paul Wight & The Undertaker at 8:12 for the WWF World tag titles.

(Rocky pinned Wight.)

August 31, 1999 Worcester, Massachusetts—WWF Smack Down! (broadcasted on 9/2/99): Chyna (Joan Lee) pinned Billy Gunn (Monte Sopp) in a challenge match. (Triple H interfered.)

• The Dudley Boyz—Buh Buh & D-Von—made their debut by disrupting a tag match and annihilating all participants.

September 2, 1999 Saginaw, Michigan—WCW Thunder: "Coach" Buzz Stern (Ray "Glacier" Lloyd) inducted Luther Biggs into his Winner's Club.

September 6, 1999 Hartford, Connecticut—WWF Raw/War Zone: WWF Women's champion Ivory (Tina Ferrari) defeated Tori (Terri Power) in a hardcore match and later used a hot clothes iron to burn Tori's back. (Geez, the ratings are good, why ruin a good match with this embarrassing junk?!)

September 7, 1999 Albany, New York—WWF Smack Down! (broadcasted on 9/9/99): The British Bulldog (David Smith) pinned Big Boss Man in 59 seconds to garner the Hardcore crown. Shortly after the match, "Bulldog" awarded the title to Al Snow.

photo: Matt Langley

Jeff Jarrett won't be garnering many sportsmanship awards after attacking the Fabulous Moolah and Mae Young. photo: John Roselli

• "Buried Alive" Match: Undertaker & Paul Wight beat Rocky Maivia & Mankind at 11:42 to win the tag belts.

• Intercontinental champ Jeff Jarrett battered veteran women wrestlers The Fabulous Moolah & Mae Young. He clobbered Moolah with his guitar, then applied a figure-four leglock on Mae.

September 12, 1999 Winston-Salem, North Carolina—WCW Fall Brawl ppv: Sting (Steve Borden) pinned Hulk Hogan for the WCW title.

D'Lo Brown has been coming into his own as of late. photo: John Roselli

• Sid Vicious (Sid Eudy) defeated "Crippler" Chris Benoit for the United States title.

• Harlem Heat defeated Kendall & Barry Windham for the WCW World tag-team straps.

September 13, 1999 Chapel Hill, North Carolina—WCW Nitro: Chris Benoit pinned Rick Steiner (Rick Rechsteiner) at 3:15 for the World TV title.

September 14, 1999 Las Vegas, Nevada—WWF Smack Down! (broadcasted on 9/16/99): Vince McMahon pinned Hunter Hearst Helmsley at 8:51 for the WWF World title. (Steve Austin interfered.)

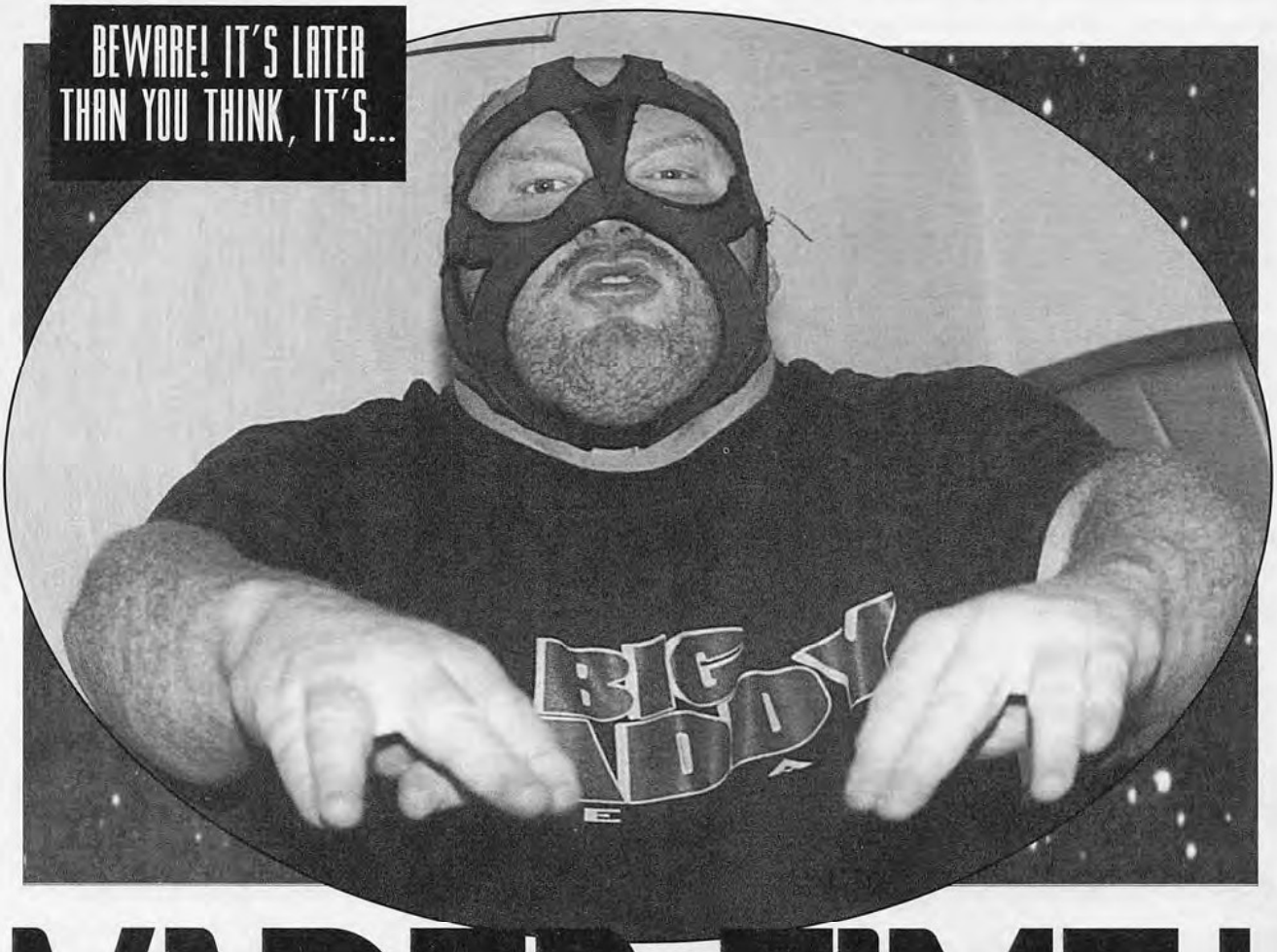
September 20, 1999 Houston, Texas—WWF Raw: Vince McMahon relinquished his claim on the WWF belt. A new champion would be crowned on the *Unforgiven* ppv.

• Mankind & Rocky Maivia beat Paul Wight, Midian & Viscera in a "Darkside Rules Match" at 3:51 for the WWF tag titles. (Rock pinned Midian.)

September 21, 1999 Dallas, Texas—WWF Smack Down! (broadcasted on 9/23/99): The New Age Outlaws beat Mankind & Rocky Maivia at 6:28 for the WWF belts. (Billy Gunn pinned Mankind.)

September 26, 1999 Charlotte, North Carolina—WWF Unforgiven ppv: Hunter Hearst Helmsley pinned Rocky Maivia in a "Six-Pack Match" at 20:24 to regain the WWF championship.

• D'Lo Brown defeated Mark Henry to regain the European heavyweight crown.



VADER TIME!

NW: FIRST OF ALL, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GREAT SUCCESS IN ALL JAPAN.

V: Thank you.

NW: Since you started tag teaming with Stan Hansen, the two of you have been unstoppable. Winning the year-end tag title during the Champion Carnival Series proved that, and as a solo performer, your Triple Crown championship title reign added proof of your dominance in one-on-one competition. Considering how New Japan and and All Japan promotions are longtime rivals, it's interesting that you are the very first wrestler to have ever held both the IWGP and the Triple Crown. This is a record-breaking event!

V: It's been the best experience I've had so far. The All Japan Triple Crown championship [which is comprised of the International heavyweight title, the United National heavyweight championship, and PWF heavyweight title] is a unique and very respected title in Japan. It is highly regarded not only among AJPW wrestlers and the fans but also New Japan as well.

NW: How do you like wrestling for All Japan?

V: All Japan is very enjoyable to work for. I show up for all of my scheduled bookings and work hard, so they leave me alone. I'm very happy to be back in Japan. My current schedule allows me the time needed to return home and spend time with my wife and son. I have peace of mind because of the way business is conducted in Japan.

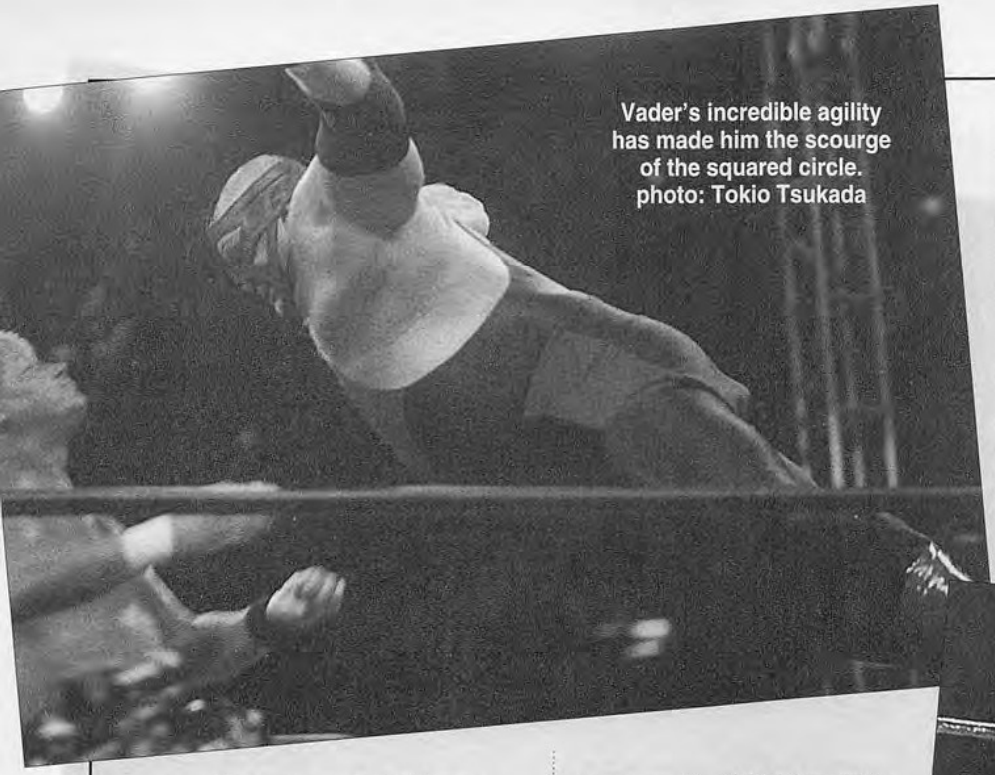
NW: When did you first come to Japan?

V: Masa Saito first brought me to Japan to work for New Japan Pro Wrestling. I was also the IWGP heavyweight champion in Japan several times. I defeated such top Japanese wrestlers as Antonio Inoki, Riki Choshu, Tatsumi Fujinami, and The Great Muta. After I gained a reputation in Japan, I returned to the U.S. and became the WCW World heavyweight champion.

NW: Where did you work when you returned to Japan?

V: I stepped into the rings of UWF International in Japan and had a tremendous match against Nobuhiko Takada. I defeated Takada to become their pro-wrestling heavyweight champion, and I was awarded the actual title belt held by Lou Thesz years

interview by Tokio Tsukada



Vader's incredible agility has made him the scourge of the squared circle. photo: Tokio Tsukada

ago, which was a real thrill for me.

I also wrestled against Wayne Shamrock in a FMW cage death match and knocked him out.

My greatest match at that point in time was against Antonio Inoki at the Tokyo Dome. After that, I did not have a chance to come back to Japan for quite some time.

NW: The Japanese fans waited for your return for a very long time.

V: Well, as you mentioned before, All Japan Pro Wrestling brought me back by teaming me with Stan Hansen for the Tokyo Dome and year-end tag league tournament in 1998. I beat Akira Taue on March 6 to become the triple crown champion and it was a great honor for me.

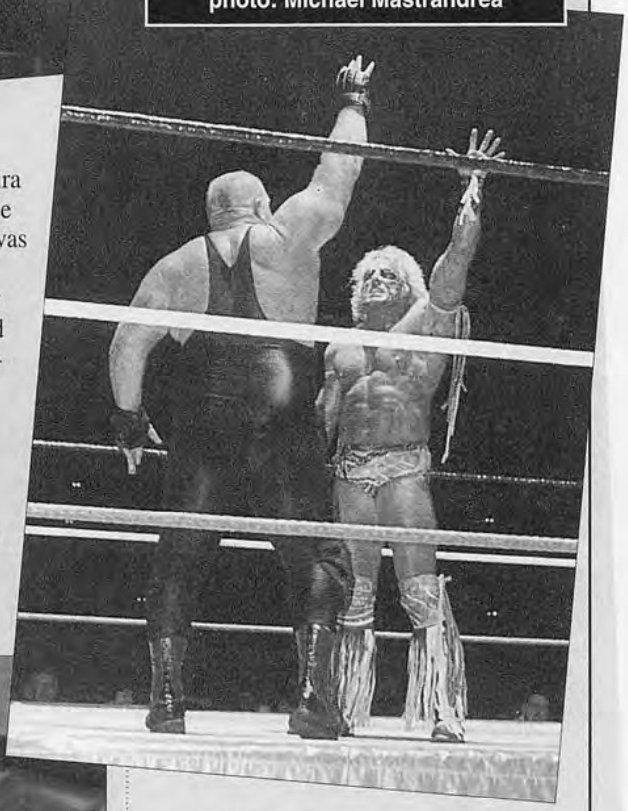
NW: You have wrestled many top wrestlers in both Japan and the U.S. Based on your experience, how do American and Japanese wrestlers differ in their athletic ability and performance?

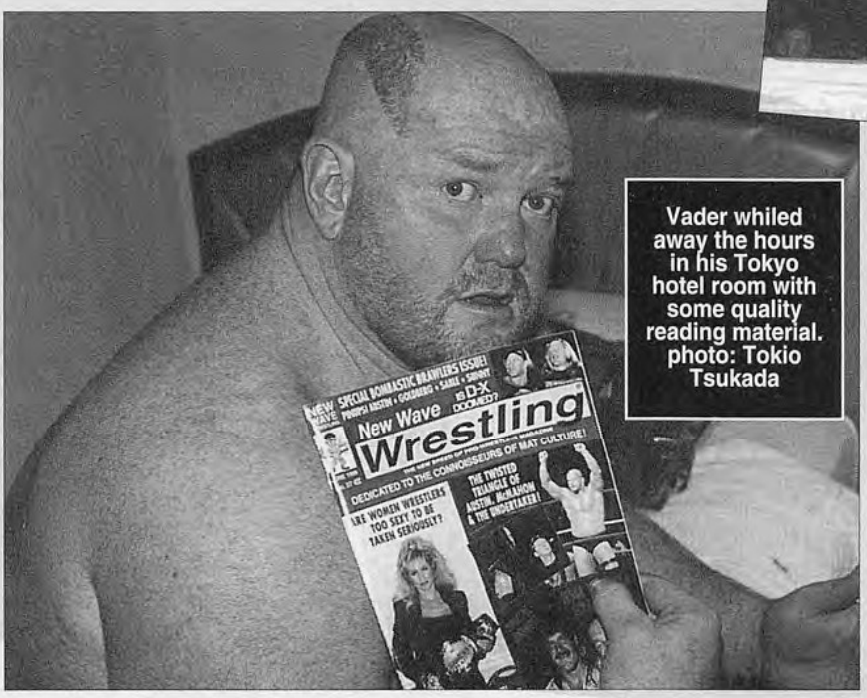
V: Well, in the U.S. the wrestlers are much bigger and stronger men. There is no question about that.

In Japan the wrestlers are in great condition and have more technical skills. The Japanese wrestlers have the art of submission down pat. Misawa, Kobashi, Akiyama—any of these guys—can wrestle for two hours or more!

I think it's hard to compare the two. I cannot say one is better than the other, but I'll sum it up by saying they're bigger and stronger in America and smarter and more dangerous wrestlers in Japan. Japanese wrestlers have martial arts abilities. They can choke you out, kick you out, and break your arm or wrist. Their knowledge of submission holds are second to none. All this makes them more dangerous.

Even the Ultimate Warrior's intensity was no match for the towering power of Vader. photo: Michael Mastrandrea

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THE TWISTED TRIANGLE OF AUSTIN, McMAHON & THE UNDERTAKER!

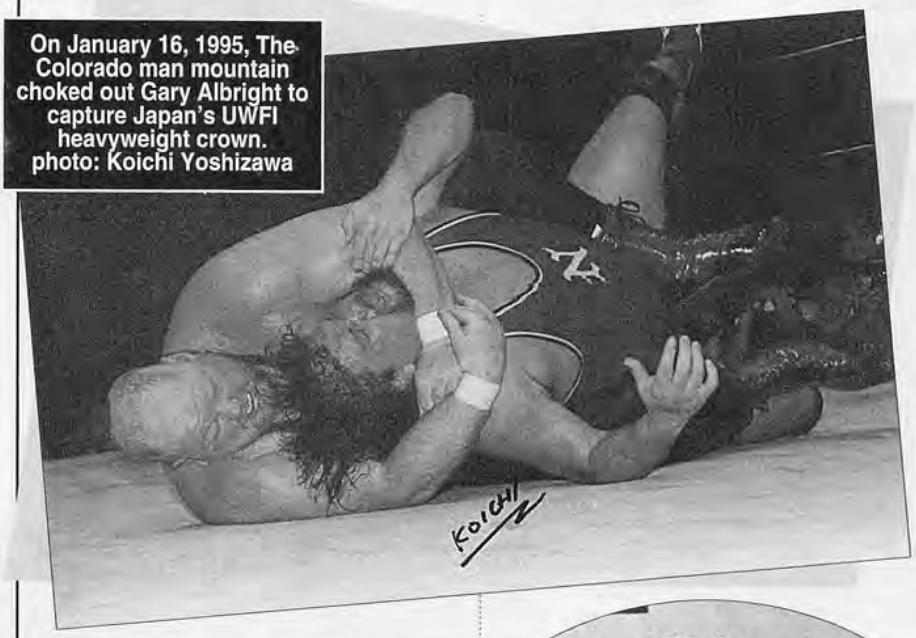
Vader whiled away the hours in his Tokyo hotel room with some quality reading material. photo: Tokio Tsukada

NW: How would you compare the way the wrestling business is conducted in Japan to the United States?

V: In Japan, I can arrive for a tour and concentrate on working hard. There are less interactive things to do. I can just focus on my matches.

In America, the schedule is much more demanding in terms of television and personal appearances, radio and TV interviews, and so on. Japan basically has a much better system.

All Japan holds six tours a year. Each



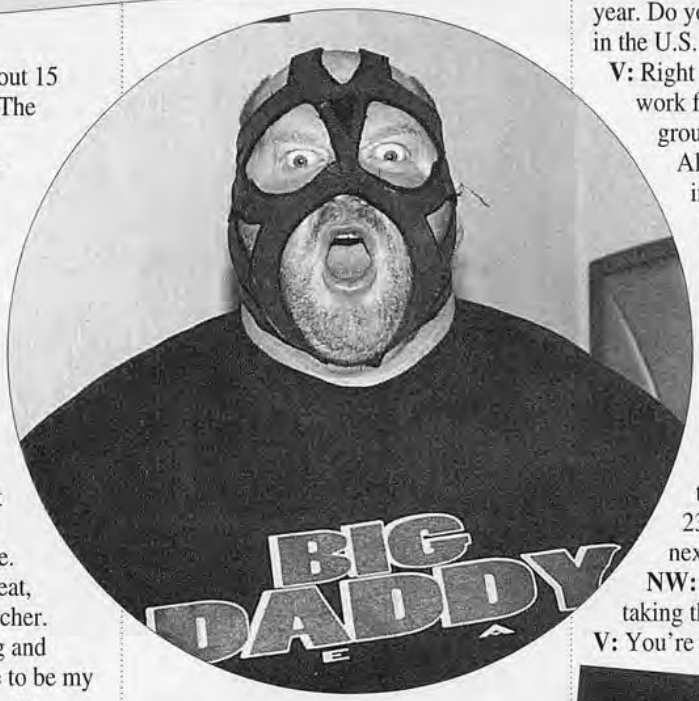
On January 16, 1995, The Colorado man mountain choked out Gary Albright to capture Japan's UWFI heavyweight crown. photo: Koichi Yoshizawa

tour lasts three weeks, with about 15 house shows all around Japan. The wrestlers get into a bus and it takes us to the arena during the tour. They provide us with good transportation from the airport to the arenas and hotels. My transportation is taken care of by All Japan everywhere I go on tour. It is a much more convenient system for wrestlers. The company provides a deluxe bus spacious enough for super-heavyweight wrestlers. It has air conditioning, a TV and VCR. All the beverages are free. My favorite drink is Pocari Sweat, which is similar to Thirst Quencher.

In America, besides wrestling and training for my matches, I have to be my own travel agent and make my own hotel, airline, and car rental reservations. I must also drive myself from town to town, as well as find my way around in cities and towns I've never been before.

In Japan, I can totally concentrate on wrestling rather than on traveling, getting directions, and making hotel accommodations. Wrestlers are also paid very well and better treated by the major promotions in Japan because they are considered professional athletes. That's why so many international wrestlers are willing to travel to Japan.

NW: How about the reaction of the fans? I know their behavior is totally different. The Japanese audiences tend to be quiet, which is the exact opposite of the U.S. audiences.



V: In Japan, wrestlers are more skilled in wrestling holds. Fans are also more educated about the various wrestling styles, making for a better product.

The reason why there is a greater knowledge of the sport can be attributed to the publicity in the respected mainstream media. The sports newspapers and weekly wrestling magazines are available at the newsstand and pictures and details of the matches will be in the newspapers on the day following the event. All the fans find out what happened almost immediately. It's difficult for fans in California to get the results of a WWF show in New York City's Madison Square Garden the next day if it were not televised.

The Japanese fans also appreciate when you make a great effort to wrestle your opponent. There are few amateur-based pro wrestlers in America, it's all basically kick and punch. In Japan there is a strategy to wrestle and attack certain body parts. The Japanese fans understand what's going on and they appreciate skills over gimmicks. When a wrestler is attacking certain body parts on his opponent by using a submission hold, fans in Japan will easily see this is not the time to clap or yell. When it is time to be excited, Japanese fans will get excited as well, but they understand the basic psychology of the match.

NW: I know many American fans have been waiting for your return since you left the WWF and joined All Japan last year. Do you have any plans to wrestle in the U.S. in the near future?

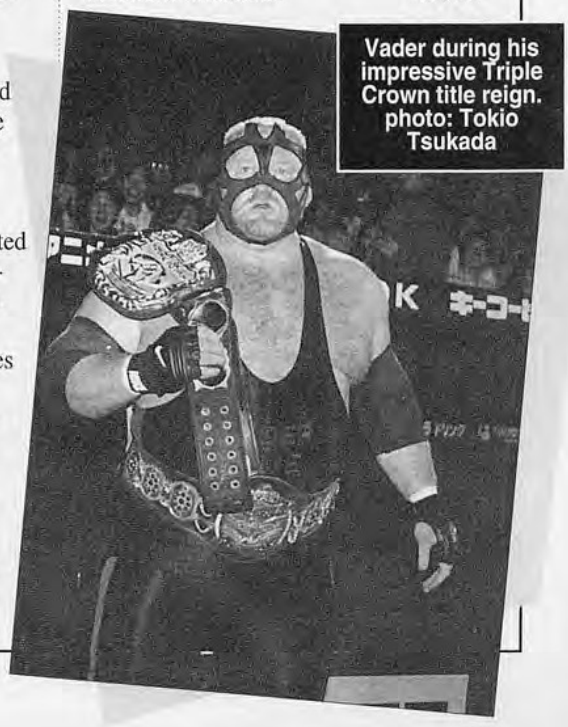
V: Right now, no. Maybe someday I'll work for a major-league American group, but I will be staying with All Japan for a while and fighting as hard as I can.

NW: What are your plans in Japan?

V: Well, I lost the Triple Crown championship to Mitsuhara Misawa on May 2 at the Tokyo Dome during the Giant Baba memorial event. Since then, Misawa successfully defended the title against Kobashi on July 23, so I am hoping to be the next challenger.

NW: Good luck to you. Thanks for taking the time for this interview.

V: You're welcome. ***NWW***



Vader during his impressive Triple Crown title reign. photo: Tokio Tsukada

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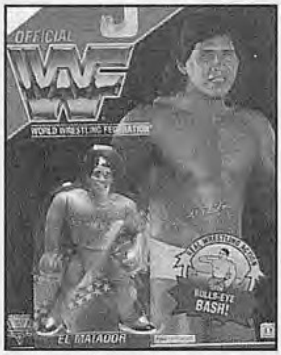

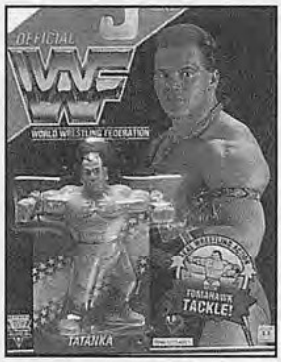

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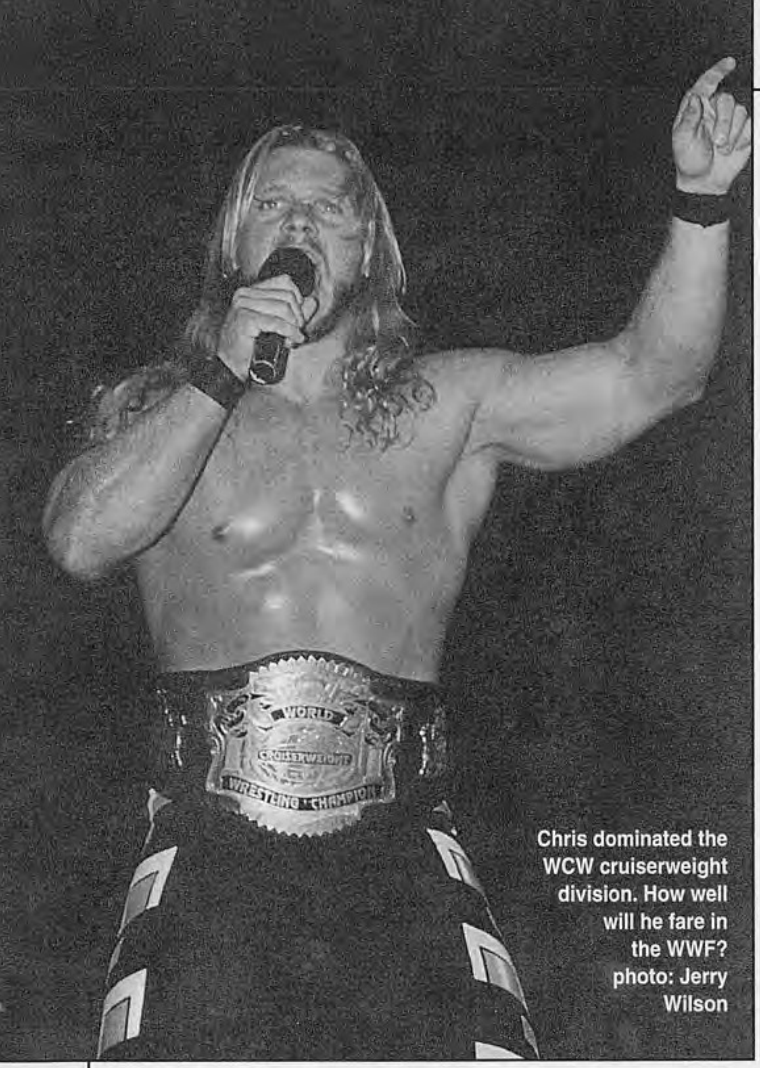

Chris dominated the WCW cruiserweight division. How well will he fare in the WWF? photo: Jerry Wilson

Chris Jericho's One-Man Crusade To Save Pro Wrestling!

THE TERM "Y2K" HAS insidiously struck fear into the hearts of humanity as everyone braces for that dreaded day which may send communications and commerce into a tailspin.

On the other hand, "Y2J" was the complete antithesis of the millennium countdown. On August 2, 1999 during *WWF RAW*, which was broadcasted from Chicago, Illinois, the greatly anticipated WWF debut of wrestling's most interesting performer took place. "The Millennium Man" Chris Jericho had arrived!

While Chris is considered by the uninitiated as an overnight sensation, this bombastic Canadian from Winnipeg has paid heavy dues ever since his pro-wrestling debut in January 1991 on the old Stampede Wrestling circuit of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

As a youngster, he dreamed of following his father, famed New York Islander hockey great Ted Irvine, into the professional skating rink. He grew up in Manhasset, New York while his father played left wing for the Rangers in the early 1970s, affording the preschooler an opportunity to peruse the locker rooms of New York's Madison Square Garden.

At the age of four, baby Chris couldn't understand what all the fuss was about. He hated the noise and the fact that his father was too busy with other things to pay much attention to him; however, today, the 6-foot, 232 pounder is in a different light. Twenty-five years later, he's back in that same spot as a professional athlete.

Jericho played hockey at every level throughout high school, but the flashy world of professional wrestling

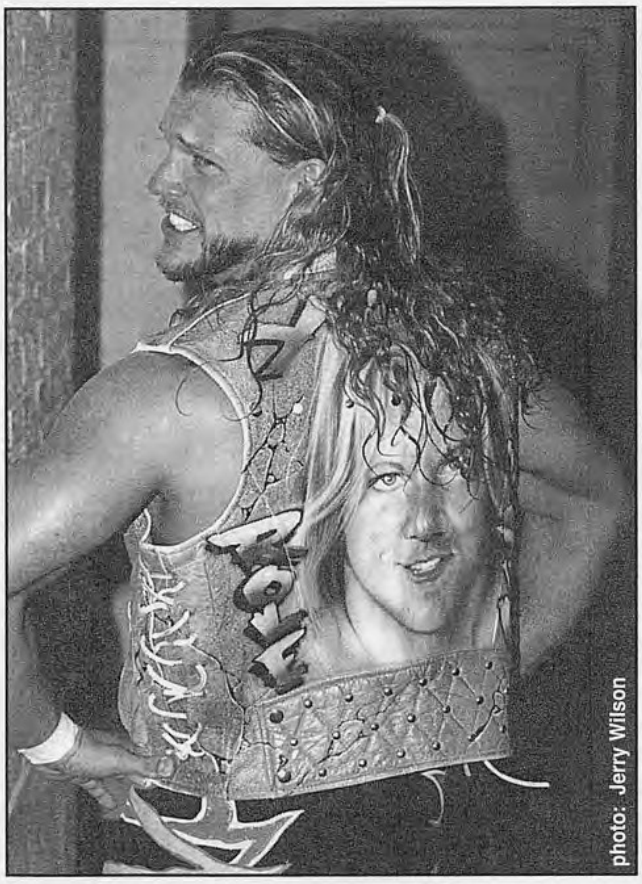

photo: Jerry Wilson

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beckoned, and, at the age of 18, he packed his bags and headed off to Canada for instruction in the fine art of bone bending by the master himself, Stu Hart. With a little bit of experience under his belt, he ventured into the international arenas. In early 1992, he was invited to tour with Atsushi Onita's Frontier Martial Arts promotion. With partner and fellow Stampede Wrestling graduate Lance Storm, Chris immediately felt comfortable with the diverse grappling styles.

In Mexico, where he was christened "Corazon de Leon"—Lionheart—one of the few competitors not wearing a mask, he quickly rose through the rankings. On December 7, 1993 in Mexico City, he defeated Mano Negra for the NWA World middleweight title.

Chris and Lance reunited again as the Thrillseekers on Jim Cornette's Smoky Mountain Wrestling territory in 1994, and he remained on the circuit until he accidentally broke his arm while trying to perfect a shooting star press. In spite of the broken arm, which required seven screws, he wrestled that evening and took a horrific beating in his weakened state.

Adversity led to triumph as he was quickly snatched up by ECW and shortly thereafter WCW, where he enjoyed title reigns as World cruiserweight and Television champion.

Chris' arrival in the WWF comes at a time when the sport needs him the most. Gone are the days of the witty and humorous ring villains. Most contenders and pretenders prefer to bellow about their prowess. They show little flair for public speaking, but Jericho, harkening back to the days of "Captain" Lou Albano, Fred Blassie, and "Superstar" Billy Graham, makes it all appear lighthearted and fun. You can't help but feel that he's genuinely having a good time out there giving the fans their money's worth. Unlike his well-heeled millionaire peers who constantly bemoan their fate as misunderstood thespians, Jericho entertains the audience with an enthusiasm not found in the game since the days of the regional territories.

Win, lose, or draw—hero or heel—Chris makes watching wrestling both interesting and amusing. He may very well be the man who saves the grappling game and its performers from the stranglehold of self-importance. Let's hope so. ***NWW***

photo: Craig Prendergast

HAS FAME SPOILED STEVE AUSTIN?

photo: Jerry Wilson

ARE WE ACTUALLY IN the midst of a professional wrestling renaissance or are we merely experiencing the byproduct of "Stone Cold" Steve Austin's mind-numbing popularity? Throughout the colorful history of this sport, many grapplers have risen beyond their peers and ascended to heights usually reserved for characters in folklore.

In the 1950s, it was Gorgeous George. His flowing robes and outrageous ringside antics made him a favorite on the emerging television screen. In the 1960s through 1980s, the regional wrestling hero held court. Bruno Sammartino clearly dominated the East Coast, while Verne Gagne was the drawing power in the Midwest. Jerry "The King" Lawler, a staple of Tennessee grappling since the 1970s, is so ingrained in the public's consciousness that he's thrown his "crown" into the political ring.

The mid-1980s ushered in a new wrestling star, a homogeneous performer who played out his role without any ethnic or regional affiliation in order to cater to a national audience. Hulk Hogan, the first true cable-TV wrestling star, forever changed the landscape of grappledom.

The Hulkamania phenomenon slightly opened the doors to the mainstream media, which had long since banished the mat sport to the farthest outskirts of UHF programming. The blond bomber made incredible inroads with appearances on TV talk shows, commercial endorsements, and television & movie projects. Hogan's one problem has always been that he's typecast as a wrestler. Let's face it, at 6-foot-8, the 275-pound Hulkster is not going to be up for any roles as the guy next door in a situation comedy. While Hogan's massive girth opened the door, it appeared as if a wrestler of more human proportions was destined to walk through that door. It seems as if Steve Austin has confidently swaggered well beyond the doorway.

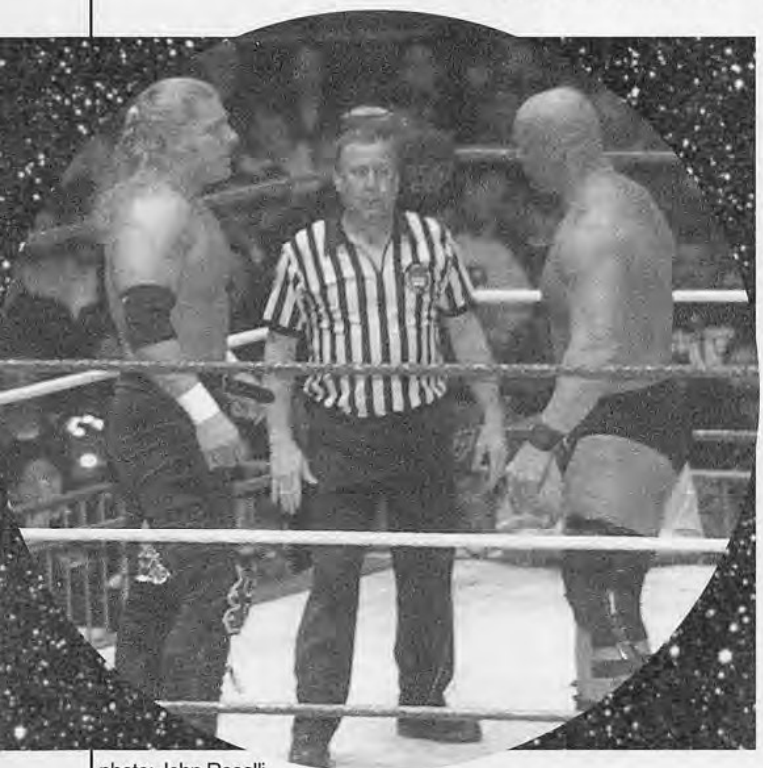
photo: John Roselli

Austin, like Hogan before him, has become the embodiment of the modern-day mat scene. Ask anybody who is not a fan to name a wrestler and Stone Cold is undoubtedly the one that comes to mind. You'd have to be living under a rock not to know him. His face is constantly plastered in the media at any given moment during the day.

There isn't a TV talk show where he hasn't been a guest. The myriad of entertainment/celebrity news programs keep up with his every move, and he makes more personal appearances than most of his fraternity combined! "Stone Cold" Steve Austin is definitely the flavor of the moment, but at what cost to his own legacy and, more importantly, to the reputation of the World heavyweight championship, a golden strap which he seems to win and lose on nearly a bimonthly basis.

Steve must be given credit for his superhuman ability to juggle it all. He is a one-man marketing machine for the Federation. With the WWF stock at the starting gate of its initial public offering, you can safely assume that the bulk of its success can be attributed to Steve's relentless spirit and ability to rise to any occasion.

In the long run, Austin is only one man and he can only do so much. As we have already seen this year, he's been contracted to appear as an unorthodox police officer in the TV drama *Nash Bridges*. His forays into the world of acting have already

by Michael O'Hara

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cut into his time as the unstoppable force on the WWF scene. As his popularity grows, it is inevitable that he'll have to pick and choose his projects more carefully. For every personal appearance or television role he accepts, he'll once again be forced to cut back his pro-wrestling bookings as well as his pursuit of the World heavyweight championship.

As his celebrity grows to monumental proportions, we must ask the question: Should Steve forget about regaining the gold? From the standpoint of the wrestling fans, it's unclear how his winning and losing the title will affect his popularity. If he drops the strap every time a juicy movie role comes along, will the fans take offense to his perceived disregard for the championship?

From the promoter's view, it's very hard to build your storyline around a central character who will possibly be out of the limelight for an extended period of time due to other pressing media-related endeavors. What about his fellow wrestlers? Casting aside the obvious issues of jealousy and envy, how well will the morale of the traveling troupe stand when it's up against a fellow performer whose popularity is head and shoulders above the rest.

The final decision will ultimately rest with "Stone Cold" Steve Austin. He has worked extremely hard to attain fame and fortune in the ring, but the lure and promise of celebrity outside the arena is quite similar to that of a wrestling tag-team partner. Just when you need to make that fateful tag, fame may turn its back, or, even worse, join in with the opposing team! ***NWW***

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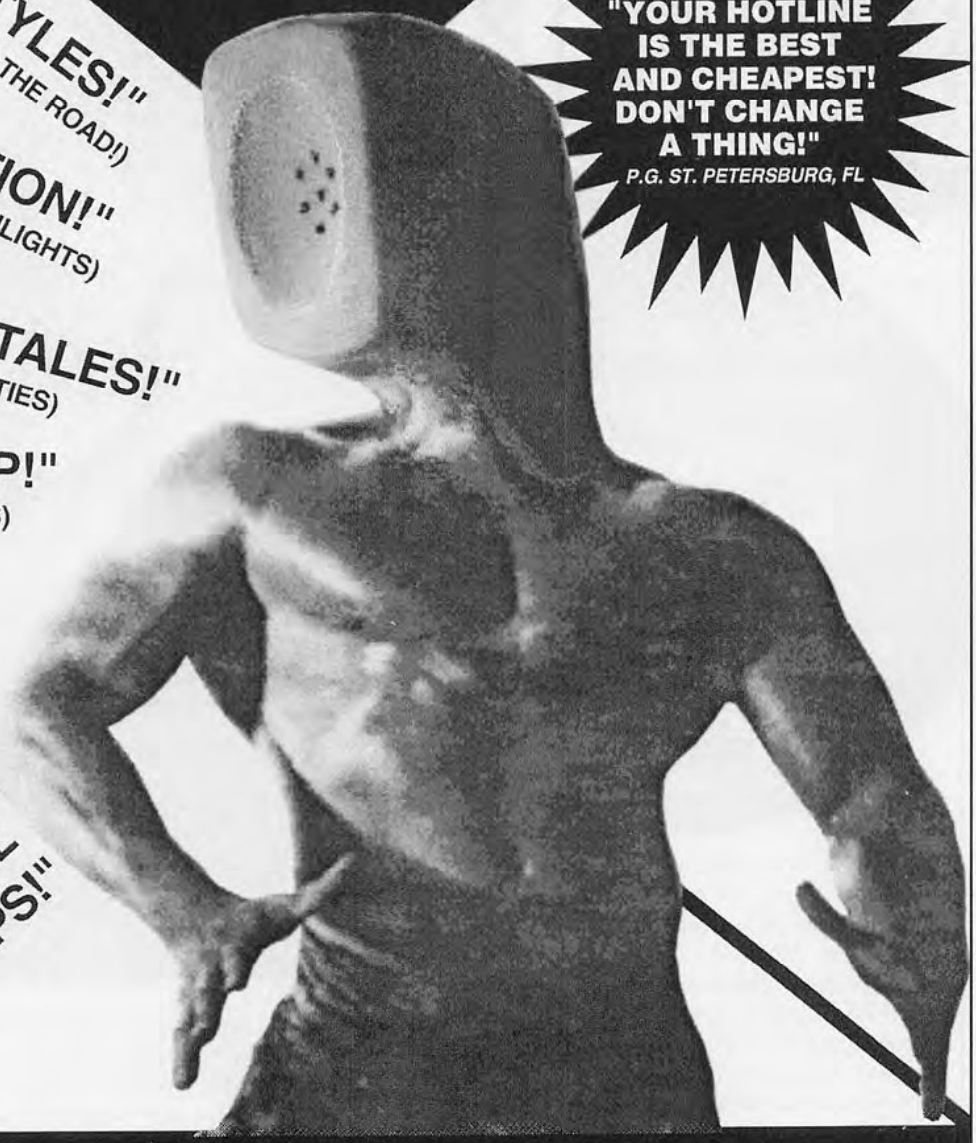

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DOUG GILBERT

photo: Steve Burton

The second-generation mat master discusses his triumphs and travails on the NWA and IWA circuits!

NW: HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WRESTLING?
DG: I'm 29 years old and I've been wrestling for a good 12 years. If I can last another 12 years, I'll be in good shape. *[Laughs]*
NW: Which promotions have you worked for?
DG: I started working in the Universal Wrestling Federation for Bill Watts the day I graduated from high school in 1987. I graduated on a Friday night and I flew out Saturday morning and actually wrestled in the UWF as a full-time pro.

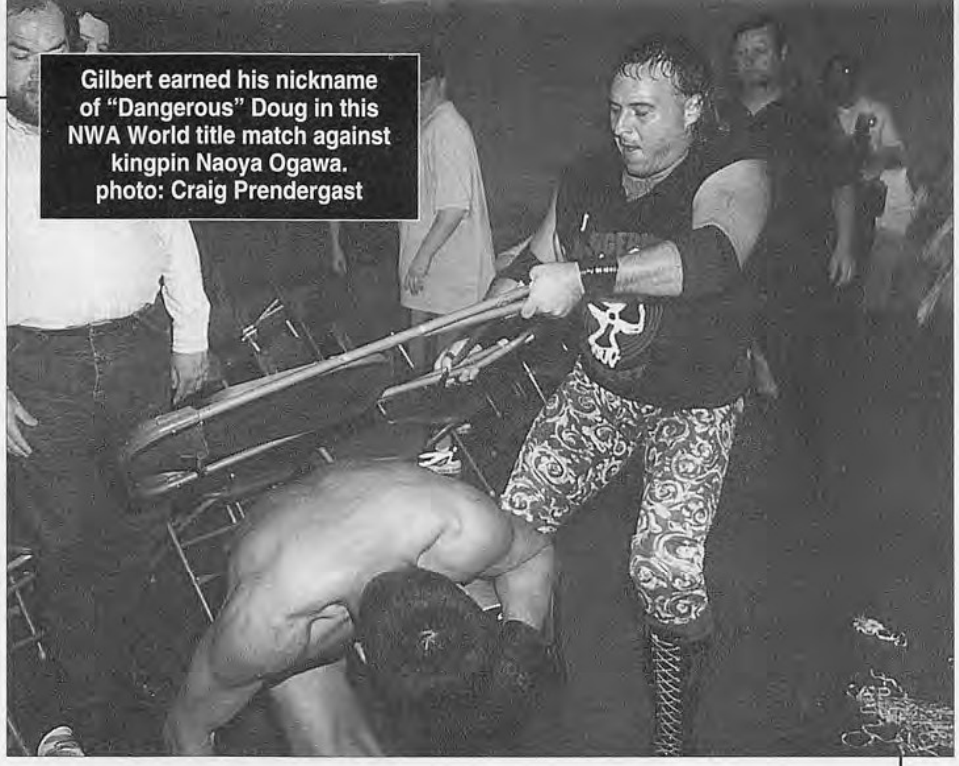
I really began getting some wrestling experience at age 16. All the guys from down South like Larry Latham of the Moondogs, Jerry Lawler, my brother, and my dad competed in matches at the live local fairs. I was not unlike most Southern wrestlers who began their wrestling career working for promoter Henry Rogers. He ran weekly shows on Saturday night in Malden, Missouri. He broke all the guys in, gave everybody work, and helped everybody gain experience. I stayed there for two years.

After I started with the UWF, I went to WCW in 1989, then to the CWA in Tennessee, and after that to the USWA.

I've worked in Mexico, in Germany for Otto Wanz's CWA, and in Japan for the International Wrestling Association the last seven years, so you can see I've made the rounds.
NW: You were with ECW when it just started going. This may be a touchy subject, but what was it like working for them?
DG: To be perfectly honest, everything was good when I was there. My brother was actually the one who started ECW. Everybody can say what they want, but when ECW was first starting out, it was Eddie they called to move to Philadelphia to book the company for them and he took Paul Heyman with him. Paul Dangerously wouldn't have a job in wrestling if it weren't for my brother. Eddie always took him along, and he got Paul his break in WCW, gave him a job in Continental Wrestling, and got him a job in Tennessee. Everywhere that Paul was, Eddie pretty much got him in and carried Paul along.

Actually, I don't think Heyman did too bad a job in ECW.

interview by Craig Prendergast



Gilbert earned his nickname of "Dangerous" Doug in this NWA World title match against kingpin Naoya Ogawa. photo: Craig Prendergast

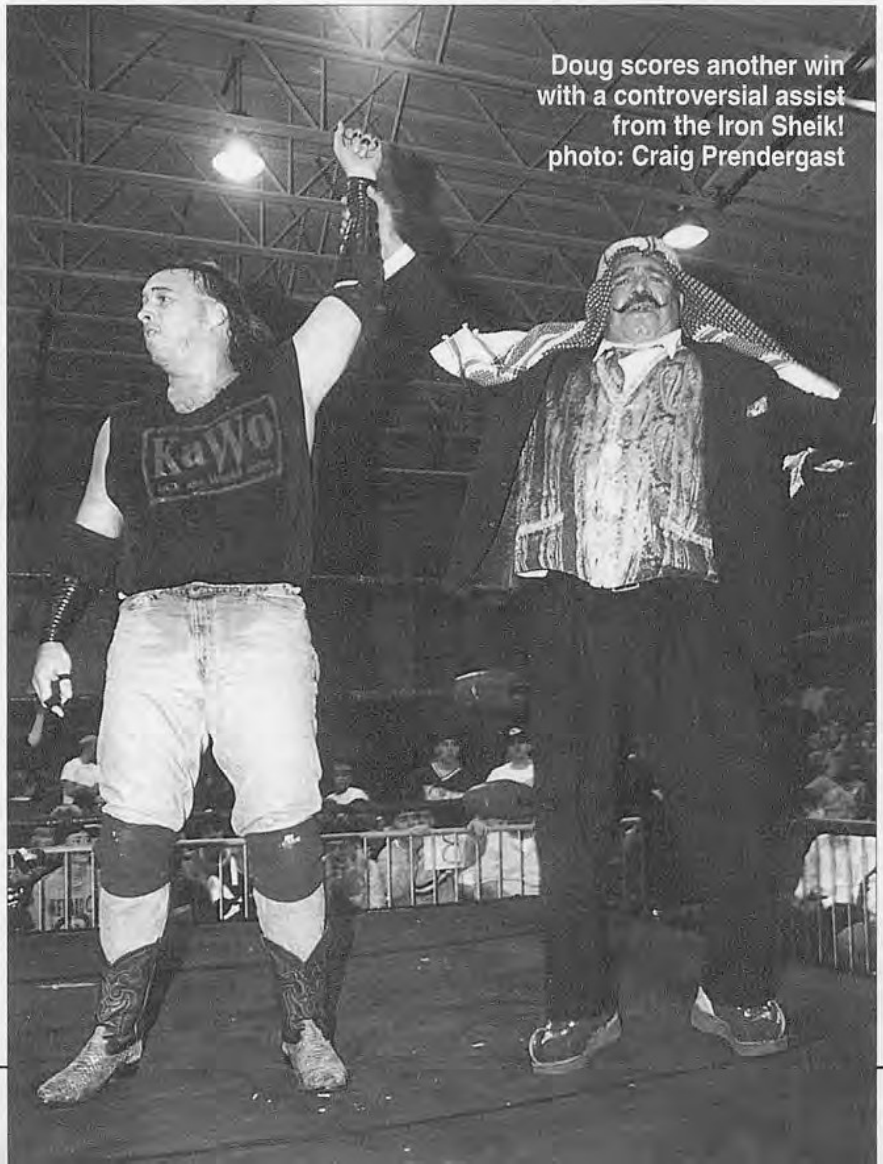
You have to be a pretty smart guy to create characters like he has. That's not saying I like him or anything, but you have to give the devil his due. There's a lot of people I don't like, but I do respect people with good wrestling minds.

Like I said before, everything was fine for me in ECW. Todd Gordon was always good to me. People think I'm going to knock everybody, but it's hard to knock somebody if they did good from a business standpoint.

NW: Was it your brother Eddie who got you into ECW?

DG: Yes. I was in Tennessee and Eddie called me to ask if I wanted to move to Philadelphia. I'm pretty much a Southern boy and I really didn't think I wanted to, but I told him I would. I flew to Philly and stayed for two months. I worked the whole time, but I didn't live there. I'd always fly back home to Tennessee.

When I was in ECW everything was all right for me, but I did hear some horror stories over the years. Guys have said the promotion owes them $100,000, but if you're crazy enough to let them get you for that amount, then you deserve to be owed that.



Doug scores another win with a controversial assist from the Iron Sheik! photo: Craig Prendergast

NW: Since your father and brother were in the business, what was it like growing up surrounded by wrestling?

DG: There's a lot of pluses and a whole lot of minuses. You go around listening to guys say my name is Gilbert and that everything was handed to me because my Dad and brother helped me out. But you know, I'm sure that was the case when I first started. There are not many people who can graduate from high school and fly out to start in a business and do good right off the bat. I had the good fortune to do that. Then again, I busted my butt and worked hard for 12 years, so I take what people say that everything's been given to me as a bunch of bull.

The main thing is that I go into the ring every night. It's not my brother or dad. I have to bust my butt to get what I have to get done and I take pride in that. Critics can knock me, but they can't say that I don't work hard. I give 110 percent in the ring regardless if I'm hurt or not.

NW: How much did your family influence you to get into wrestling?

DG: My dad tried to convince my brother and me NOT to get into wrestling, but we were around the business our whole lives, and we loved it. It's what we chose to do.

My brother and I were very different when it came to wrestling. Eddie had wrestling on his mind 24 hours a day seven days a week, whereas I think about wrestling when I'm riding in my car. When I was growing up I would have loved to have gone to college to

play football, but it always came down to wrestling, that was always my goal.
NW: I know the NWA and IWA run a memorial show for your late brother. It must be nice that Eddie is remembered by so many people.
DG: A lot of people have different thoughts about Eddie, but those are people who didn't know him. The one thing no one can say is that he screwed anyone when he was in the office booking territories. Everybody in wrestling these days gets screwed around or lied to, but my brother was always honest with the wrestlers, that's why he got the respect he did when he was alive, and people still remember him that way to this day. As far as his wrestling ability is concerned, he went into the ring every night and busted his butt.
NW: Who is your favorite opponent?
DG: I love to wrestle Terry Funk. When I was growing up, he was my all-time favorite.

My dad adored Funk. To this day they still talk on the phone on a daily basis. They were tight. My dad really pushed the Dory Funk down-on-the-mat style to us. Eddie and I had the utmost respect for Dory, but Terry was the one we both emulated a little bit. I'm eight years younger than Eddie, but we both liked Terry a great deal. He's such a good friend of the family, but when you get into the ring with him, He's tough. It's like going into a street fight.
NW: Do you prefer working as a good guy or bad guy?
DG: My dad told me one time that to be a consummate pro you need to do both. The easy way to describe it is it's like being a utility man. I can go anywhere whether I'm a good guy or bad guy and have a good match with anybody. When you can go anywhere and have a match with the worst guy in the building, you're in good shape. Babyface or heel, it doesn't matter, whatever the occasion calls for.

My dad told me that with every one of the NWA World champions it didn't matter whether they were a babyface or heel. Wherever the event, whatever the situation they were put in, they handled it. They worked it out, and that's what I try to do.

It's not a focus one way or the other. I can go to the arena tonight and not even know who I'm wrestling. You have to focus on the moment at hand and get your mind set. If you get your mind set, everything's going to be fine.
NW: Which titles have you won over your career?
DG: Well, the biggest one was in Japan. I won the IWA World title on

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Two fierce fighting families: from left to right—Terry & Dory Funk, Tommy & Doug Gilbert. photo: Craig Prendergast

Doug's proud parents are thrilled by his remarkable success on the mat. photo: Craig Prendergast

December 14, 1997 and I held it for a year and three months. As far as prestige and making me feel good about myself, that was the biggest title I've held so far.

I've held the USWA heavyweight title, the USWA tag titles, Global World title, and I can go on, but those are pretty much the main ones.

I'm the NWA National champion right now. No matter what anybody says, under the World title the next guy in line is the NWA National champion. That's the way it's always been and the way it'll always be.

NW: For which promotion do you work in Japan?

DG: I work for International Wrestling Association Japan Pro. Terry Funk is my partner. We have some good American talent and everything is going very well. I go to Japan for 12 to 16 weeks a year. It takes a week to recover for each week of competition overseas, so I'm really in Japan for about 36 weeks.

Luckily, I'm in line for a few title shots against NWA World heavyweight champion Naoya Ogawa. I heard everybody talking about him. Dan Severn wrestled him and lost. Dan is one tough individual, so Ogawa has the tools. There's no question about that, but I think the NWA has to go in another direction, and I think I'm that direction they need to go.

NW: Do you ever get nervous when you go up against a wrestler like Ogawa for a respected title like the NWA gold?

DG: I do get a bit nervous because winning the NWA World heavyweight crown has been one of my goals since I was a child. I've gone to wrestling with my brother, Eddie Gilbert, for years and my dad, Tommy Gilbert, since I was 5 years old. The NWA World title is still the main title in Japan, and that's where I basically do most of my wrestling.

Most people don't understand that there's still a lot of prestige to this title. They think the NWA has dwindled down in the past few years and that the title doesn't mean as much, but in Japan you're better off with the NWA World title than the WWF or WCW World title. It really means that much.

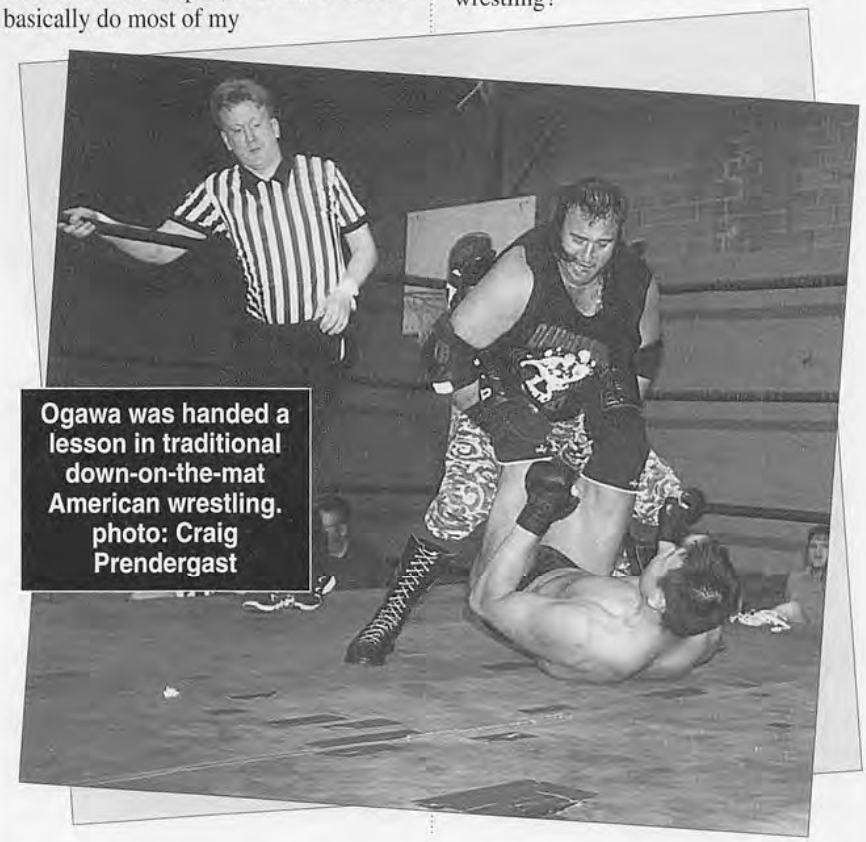
NW: Where did you like wrestling in the U.S.?

DG: I like to travel up North and wrestle in the Baltimore and Philadelphia area. It seems like there is better talent there.

NW: What would you be doing now if you weren't a full-time wrestler?

DG: I would probably be working for my dad, who's involved in gas pipelines and runs big machinery. I love all that big stuff. I would still probably promote wrestling shows and do charity stuff.

NW: What are your interests outside of wrestling?



Ogawa was handed a lesson in traditional down-on-the-mat American wrestling. photo: Craig Prendergast

DG: They asked me that in Japan and I told then collecting $100 bills. *[Laughs]* They laughed when I said that. I love everything outdoors. Water-skiing, horseback riding, I'm an outdoorsman. I love being in the open air.

NW: Whom do you admire in wrestling?

DG: Well, as I said earlier, I really respect Terry Funk as well as Dory Funk. I admire my dad, of course, I can't leave him out. If it weren't for my dad, I wouldn't be here. He's helped me a ton and has given me lots of guidance. The list goes on and on.

There's a difference in our business in liking or respecting someone. In the North you grew up watching Bruno Sammartino. Down South you grew up watching Jackie Fargo and Jerry Lawler. Guys like that I respect from the business aspect of wrestling. That's not saying I like them. The business is about respect and what people can do in the ring, and that's where I try to get my respect.

NW: What is the best and worst thing about the business?

DG: I'll start with the worst. I do a lot of regional shows and they're using too much violence as a selling point right now. There are many kids attending these events and I think we really have to tone it down. You've got to have a good mix of heels and babyfaces. Believe me, I love to be a heel and get a lot of hate, but there's a way of doing it. You don't just pick up a microphone and start cursing everybody out in the building.

The best part about wrestling is that the sport is so hot right now. Many people have problems with the new characters, but we need new characters. The times have changed and wrestling must change. It's going to keep on changing. It's going to keep on getting better and better.

In any corporation, things will go wrong, and I've given a great deal of thought to the passing of Owen Hart. That could have happened to any one of us. Wrestling is showmanship, but we're not stunt men. There are certain things we are doing in the name of showmanship that we really shouldn't.

I was talking to Terry Funk on the phone and he told me about how he went into the ring and raised a chain saw in the air and the prop guy didn't put the gas cap on. The gas spilled all over him and the spark button was on. He could have caught on fire and burned.

There's so much money right now in everything and everybody has the potential of making big money. The main thing I'm trying to put together is a new promotion with a grass-roots style called the Traditional American Wrestling Association. The TAWA is going to have a mix of both Northern and Southern styles, but the emphasis will be on wrestling. There will be characters that the people can love and hate the way they used

photo: Craig Prendergast

to. It's going to be a good, clean variety show that parents and kids can attend. It'll have seven or eight matches from start to finish, not like shows where you're lucky if you get one or two quality matches. We've got to give people value for their money. There are enough wrestlers out there I know who can perform on that level. If I can put together a good deal, it will happen sooner or later. I would like to do this for the fans who deserve to see quality wrestling.

NW: What injuries have you suffered?

DG: I broke both my hands, my left arm and shoulder, and my left collarbone. I had my left knee scoped twice. My nose is as crooked as any road you've been on. I broke it three times in Japan. I've broken so many ribs that I don't think they're in the right place anymore. You learn to get over it and live with it. It's not ballet. You're going to get hurt. You don't want people to get seriously hurt, but in life stuff happens.

NW: What advice would you give to someone who wants to break into the business?

DG: You've got to make sure that you get references before you get trained. I heard about guys who open wrestling schools that don't know a wristlock from a wristwatch. It's hard to learn from someone who doesn't know anything themselves.

You need to find a good guy who knows what he's doing. Ask around, check guys out. You've got to watch out. Wrestling is so hot that every Tom, Dick, and Harry is going to have a wrestling school on every corner and they're going to take your money. People think if you have a school you know what you're doing, but that's not necessarily the case.

NW: What would you like to accomplish in wrestling?

DG: I'd like to wrestle until I'm 35, another six years from now. One of my goals is to win the NWA World title. Then I'd like to move more into the business aspect of wrestling. I do quite a bit of office work for the wrestling company in Japan. I help out by scouting and getting them American talent. I'd like to do more of that.

Actually, I spoke to WCW a couple of times and they offered me a deal that most wrestlers would jump at, but the hitch was I'd have to discontinue my Japanese tours. Japan has been my life for seven years. They have always been good to me, and I'm loyal to them.

As far as the business goes, I have lots of good ideas. There has to be a turnover in wrestling. I've watched the same guys run everything for the last 15 years. It's time for some new creative ideas and angles. Like any other business, you need different minds working together, otherwise it gets stale.

NW: It was great talking to you, Doug.

DG: You got it. ***NWW***

HULK HOGAN
& JIMMY HART

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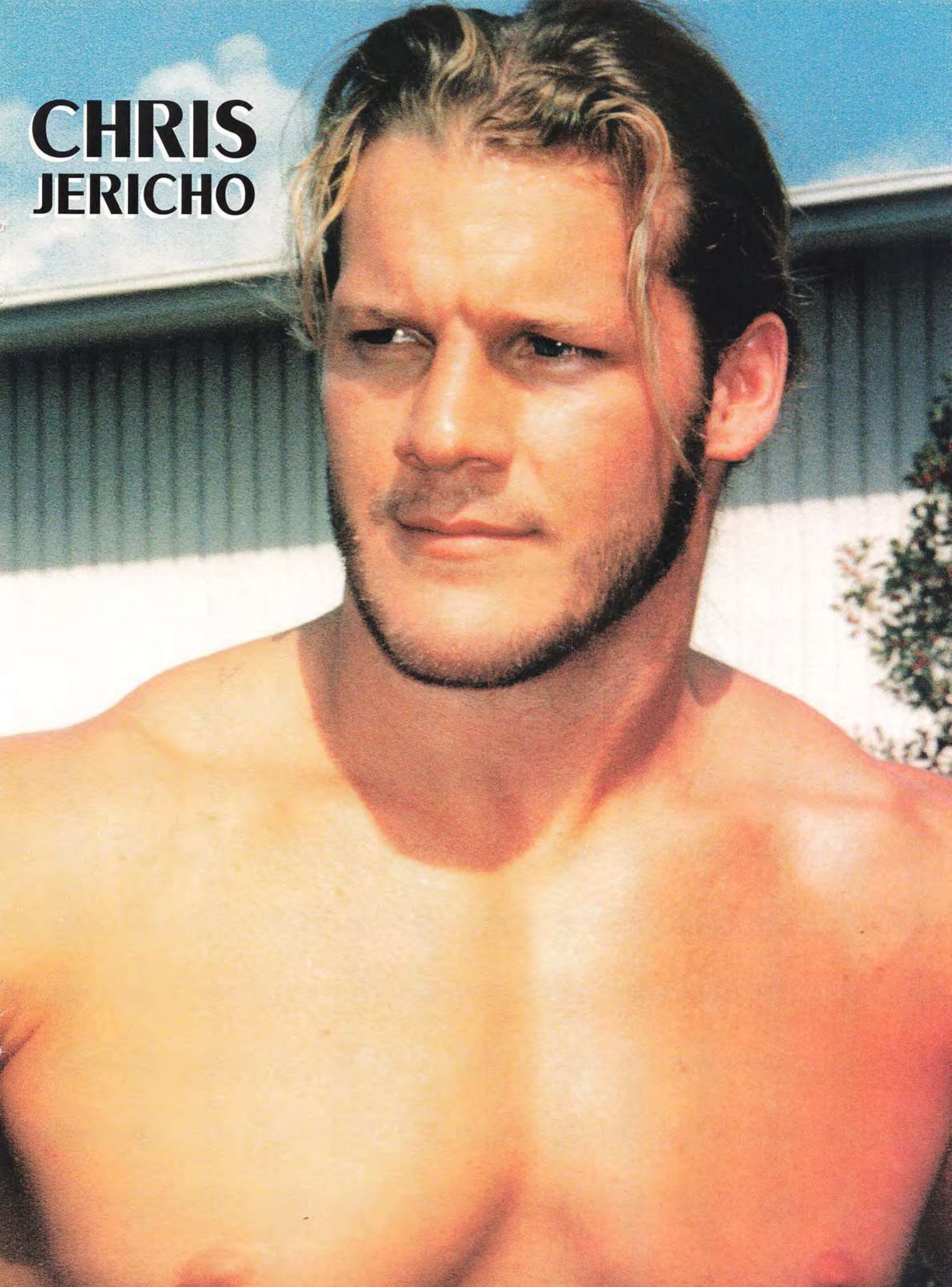
& Chyna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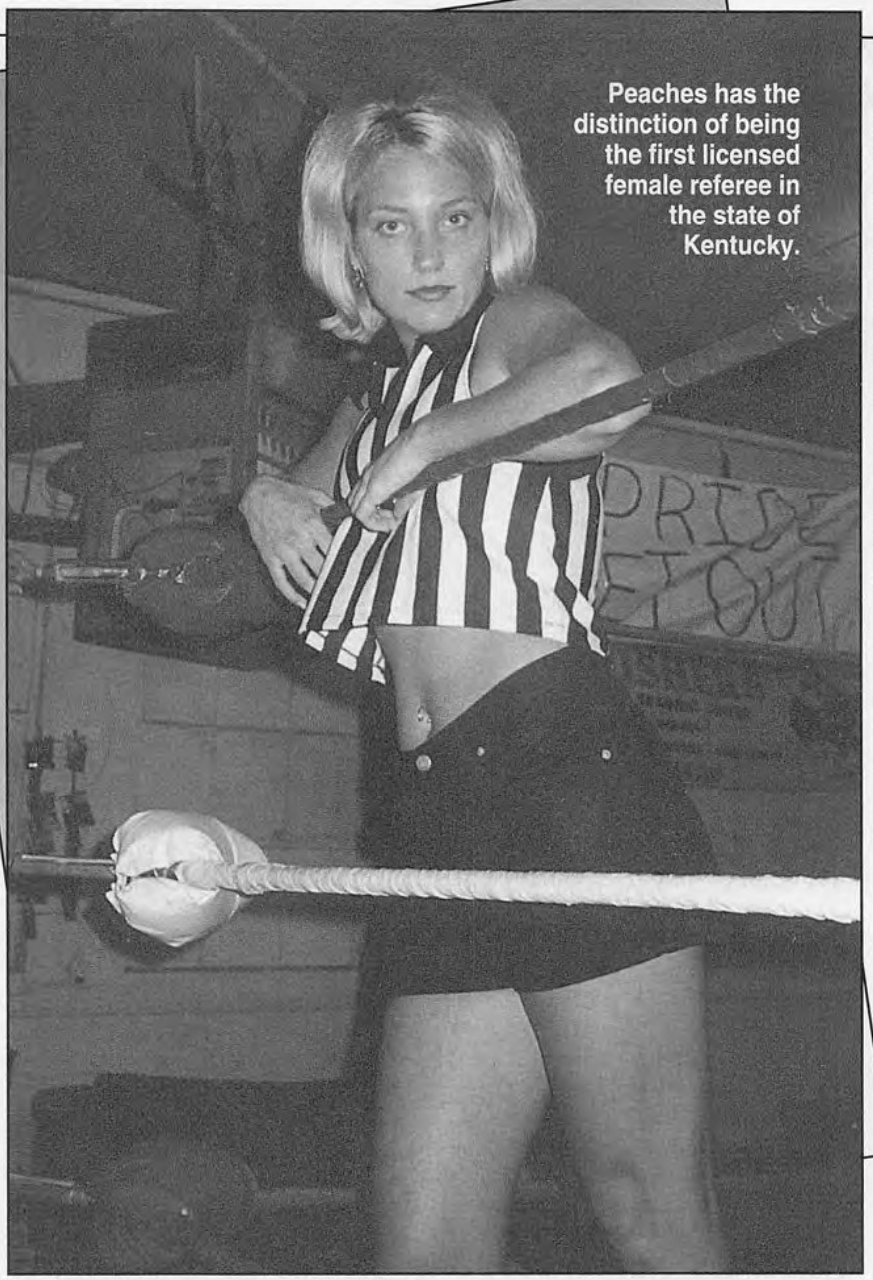
NW: WHY DID YOU BECOME A PRO WRESTLER?
P: I thought it would be a great opportunity to further my career and talent. I also believe that women have the same right to be involved in wrestling as a man.
NW: Did you watch wrestling while you were growing up?
P: Yes, I watched it every Saturday night with my father. It was our ritual.
NW: Which wrestlers did you like?
P: My favorite wrestlers were Greg "The Hammer" Valentine,"Magnificent" Don Muraco, the Iron Sheik, and Jake "The Snake" Roberts.
NW: Did you participate in any sports while you were in school?
P: Yes, I played volleyball and softball in high school. I was always very athletic and enjoyed competing in sports.
NW: You started out as a wrestling valet and manager. Did you like it?
P: I did. It was a great starting point for me in wrestling, and you can always be utilized as a manager.
NW: You are also a referee. Why did you choose to pursue refereeing?
P: I became a referee because I had some confrontations with a male wrestler who said that a woman has no place in the wrestling ring. First, I did it to prove to him that he was wrong. It also gave me the opportunity to become the first licensed female referee in the state of Kentucky.
NW: Is refereeing something you're going to keep on pursuing?
P: I would like to concentrate on my wrestling right now, but I'm always willing to keep my options open for the future.
NW: Have you had any injuries in the pro ring?
P: Other than your normal bumps and

interview & photos by Ron McDowell



Peaches has the distinction of being the first licensed female referee in the state of Kentucky.

bruises, no. I've been pretty lucky so far.
NW: Would you like to wrestle for any of the major promotions in the United States or in Japan?
P: I think it would be a great opportunity for me. It's one of the goals I have set for myself. I know it may be a long time before it comes true, but it's something I will keep working toward.
NW: Do you admire any women pro wrestlers?
P: The Fabulous Moolah is my favorite wrestler and my mentor. She is a wrestling legend and has been in the business for 40 years. She gives me the inspiration and hope that I can go on for 40 more years as well.
NW: Where did you get your wrestling training?
P: I was trained at Bone Krushers in Cincinnati, Ohio.
NW: Do you think good training is important in wrestling?
P: Yes, it's very important. You must get the proper training, especially so you can learn how to avoid serious injury. It's just like following step-by-step instructions before you make or do something. Preparation is the key to success in any endeavor. You have to know what you're doing whether it's in the pro-wrestling ring or sitting behind the wheel of a car.
NW: When did you make your pro-wrestling debut?
P: My first match was held at Peels' Palace in Erlanger, Kentucky on December 26, 1998 for the Northern

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Peaches flexes her brain muscle by reading her favorite mat magazine.

Wrestling Federation. The NWF runs shows throughout Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky.

NW: Who have been some of your main opponents?

P: My main feuds have been with Corporal Callie and Sin-D.

NW: Who else is wrestling for the NWF right now?

P: Sam Cody, Prince Justice, Chris Harris, Rob Williams, Angel, Suicide, Sean Casey, and Stamp Lickage. They may not be household names right now, but I think you'll be hearing a great deal about these talented mat stars in the months and years to come. They are the future of pro wrestling.

NW: What do your friends think about your involvement in wrestling?

P: My friends are actually the ones who got me interested in wrestling in the first place. They're all for it.

NW: What advice would you give to someone who wants to pursue wrestling?

P: I think as long as you really want to do it and you stick with it, you'll be able to accomplish anything you set your mind to. But be prepared, it's not as easy as you think. There is a lot of hard work involved in wrestling.

Also, don't be jealous of the major-league stars and the fame and fortune they're attaining. It's a long, hard climb for anyone who has the determination to make it as a wrestler, so it won't be easy. If it were, everyone would be a main-event superstar.

NW: What do you think of women's wrestling today?

P: I have mixed emotions about it. There are definitely many talented women out there, but I don't think they are given enough of a chance to show how good their wrestling skills are in the ring. The women's division needs more emphasis on talent over looks.

NW: How did you come up with the name Peaches?

P: It was a nickname given to me by my grandfather.

NW: What are some of your hobbies?

P: I enjoy working out, volleyball, dancing, and cooking.

NW: Thanks for this interview. Good luck in all your wrestling-related careers.

P: It was my pleasure. I enjoyed it. ***NWW***

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Bobbi Jo Morrison (age 17) 506 McLean St. Colchester, IL 62326. Favorites: The Brood, Sting, Horsemen, Steve Austin, and Degeneration–X

Vanessa Hayward (38), 15, Dudley Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, England CV8 1GP–Wanted: Female fans (30+) of The Undertaker!

Ian Lee Senic (?), 53 West Road, Fraserburgh, Scotland AB43 9JY–Wanted: Female fans (17-23) of Jesse James, X-Pac, Stone Cold, and Rock.

Lisa Ishihara (?), 1314 Lake St., Elmira, NY 14901. Wanted: Fans of Stone Cold, The Rock, Kane, Triple H, Mankind, and D-X.

Jason Pruett (16), P.O. Box 766, Rosebud, TX 76570. Favorites: Steve Austin, Taz, Chris Candido & Sunny, The Rock, and Shane Douglas.

Carla Anderson (?), 17730 George Washington, Southfield, MI 48075–Favorites: Kane, Bret Hart, Sting, Stone Cold, and the late Owen Hart.

H.L. Frederick 2nd (?), 2760 Dewey Ave., #3A, Bronx, NY 10465–Wanted: Female fans of Mick Foley, Stone Cold, Goldberg, D-X, Chyna, and the late, great Junkyard Dog.

Vicky Lunson (33), 10 Westward Ho Drive, Sunbury, Victoria, Australia 3429. Favorites:Warrior, Kidman, The Undertaker, and Austin.

Jason Davis (11), P.O. Box 215, Warren, ME 04101. Favorites: The Rock, Big Show, The Undertaker, Stone Cold, Hogan, Kane, Triple H, Road Dogg, and Kevin Nash.

Eileen Deans (26), 61 Southfield Crescent, Pollok, Glasgow, Scotland G53 5BT. Favorites: The Undertaker, Kane, Bret Hart, Nash, Big Show, Triple H, and Chyna.

Jonathan Murga (15), 831 Topsail Lane, Secaucus, NJ 07094–Wanted: Female fans of Sid, Scott Hall, Benoit, Road Dogg, and Edge.

Ismenia Marte (21), 160 Vermilyea Ave., Apt. # 1 Bsmt., New York, NY 10034. Favorites: Triple H, Goldberg, Bret Hart, Rock, and Nash.

Jeff Classen (?), 1015 Oxford St., #2A, Worthington, MN 56187–Wanted: Fans of Sting, Chyna, Goldberg, and Austin.

Lisa Falleiro (23), 57 Woolgar Way, Lockridge, Perth, Western Australia 6054. Wanted: WWF fans from around the world!

Steve Campbell (27), 69 Thompson St., Aitkenvale, Queensland, Australia 4814. Favorites: Rey Misterio Jr., Ken Shamrock, Chris Jericho, Rob Van Dam, Mankind, and Ric Flair.

Nykole Brantley (16), 4412 Melvin Circle East, Jacksonville, FL 32210–Favorites: Steve McMichael, Jeff Jarrett, Chris Beniot, Chris Candido, Chyna, and Nicole Bass.

Craig Skuse (26), 6 Inglong Street, Kelso, Qeensland, Australia 4815–Favorites: Bret Hart, Sabu, DDP, Steve Austin, Kidman, and Dean Malenko, and Chris Benoit.

Katie Mahony (17), 384 Victoria Rd., South Ruislip, Middlesex, London, England HA4 OEP–Wanted: Male or female fans (17+) of Chaz, Droz, Prince Albert, Road Dogg, The Brood, and Debra.

Mike Truitt (21), E-mail: OZZY4LIFE@WEBTV.NET or Holly Oak Box L8,

Patty Desrosiers (age 34) 4E Heritage Dr. Claremont, NH 03743. Favorites: DDP, Kidman, Raven, Billy Gunn, Road Dogg, and Steve Austin.

Delmar, DE 19940–Wanted: WWF and WCW fans.

Kristy Smale (17), P.O. Box 5026, Glenferrie South L.P.O., Victoria, Australia 3122–Wanted: Fans from all over the world!

Trevor Rickard (15), 75 Godric Crescent, New Addington, Croydon, Surrey, London, England–Favorites: The Rock, Steve Austin, DDP, D-X, Goldberg, Wolfpac, The Undertaker, and Kane.

Rachel Collins (?), 90 Old Shoreham Rd., Portslade, East Sussex, England BN41 1SN. Wanted: ***New Wavers*** from around the world!

Bobby Moore (26), 4306 Waters Place, Shreveport, LA 71109-6640–Wanted: Female fans (22-29) of Steve Austin, Mankind, Road Dogg, X-Pac, Kane, Val Venis, and others.

Amber Wilder (17), P.O. Box 131, Onawa, IA 51040. Favorites: Goldberg, Stone Cold, DDP, Degeneration-X, and The Undertaker.

Stephen Brett (19), 14 Menone Crescent,Wythenshawe, Manchester, England M22 9YH–Favorites: Bret Hart, Steve Austin, and Goldberg.

Mandy Pearson (15), 79 Burdette Add., Point Pleasant, WV 25550–Favorites: D-X, Steve Austin, Chris Jericho, Goldberg, and Bret Hart.

Matt Yunick (19), 1241 Peaceable St., Ballston Spa, NY 12020–Favorite: Sable.

Melissa Reep (33), 511 Springs Rd., Dallas, NC 28034–Favorites: Wolfpac, Nash, Sting, Austin, Triple H, DDP, and The Undertaker.

Thommy Revels (8), 511 Springs Rd., Dallas, NC 28034-Faves: Raven, Kane, Nash, Wolfpac, and Sting.

Takisha Reep (14), 511 Springs Rd., Dallas, NC 28034–Favorites: Triple H, DDP, Raven, Austin, Nash, Ric Flair, Wolfpac, and Sting.

Travis Shipton (11), 511 Springs Rd., Dallas, NC 28034–Favorites:The Rock, D-X, New Age Outlaws, Goldberg, and Stone Cold.

Ashley Revels (6), 511 Springs Rd., Dallas, NC 28034-Faves: The Undertaker, Sting, and Nash.

Carlos Pico (31), E-mail: cpico7@yahoo.com or 1689 Randall Ave., #3-D, Bronx, NY 10473–Favorites: Roddy Piper and The Rock & Roll Express.

Kimberly Nease (28), 504 U.S. 31 South, Apt. B-12, Austin, IN 47102–Favorites: Steve Austin, The Undertaker, and the late Brian Pillman.

Chris Horn (33), 333 Essies Private Drive, Lot 42, Bristol, TN 37620–Favorites: Steve Austin, Sting, and Mankind.

Alicia Ewerdt (26), 504 U.S. 31 South, Apt. B-12, Austin, IN 47102–Favorites: Steve Austin, Sid, and Vader.

John Mikels (age 17) 2260 Hawthorne Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15218. Wanted: Female fans (15-19) of the World Wrestling Federation.

Dennis Hammack (28), General Delivery, Pilot Knob, MO 63663–Favorites: Hart, Bagwell, Austin, Gorgeous George, and X-Pac.

Christy Pickrain (?), Rt. 4 Box 363A, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501–Wanted: Male fans (19-30) of The Undertaker, Austin, Nash, and Goldberg.

John Wayne (40), P.O. Box 366, Louisa, KY 41230. Wanted: Female fans (my age) of Goldberg, Shawn Michaels, and Bret Hart from around the world.

Lisa Burrelli (34), 651 Sixth St., Oakmont, PA 15139. Favorite: The Undertaker!

Richard Sawyer (?), 2827 Jamestown Ct. S, Mishawaka, IN 46545–Wanted: Diehard Sable fans.

Amanda Stutchbury (23), 64 Vale St., Cabramatta, N.S.W., Sydney, Australia 2166. Favorites: Degeneration–X, Triple H, Shawn Michaels, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, and The Undertaker.

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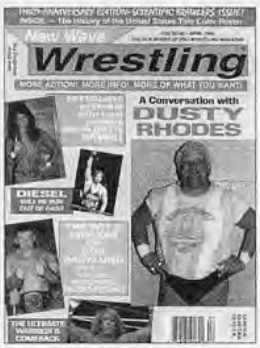

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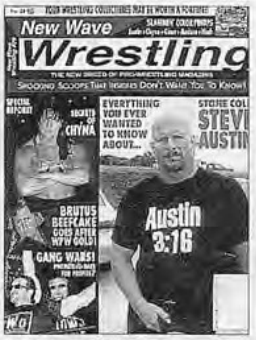

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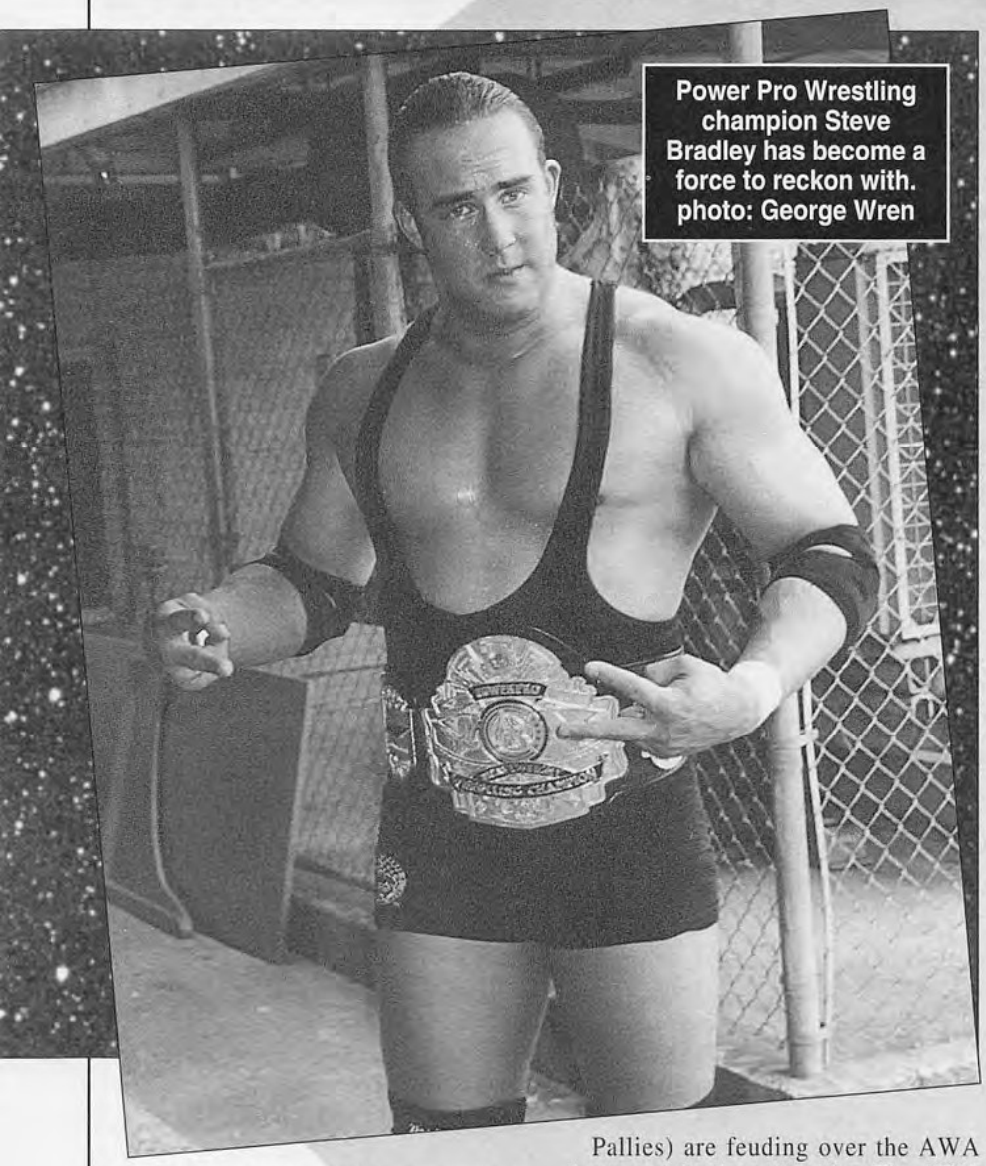
The INDEPENDENT Scene

compiled by Michael O'Hara



Power Pro Wrestling champion Steve Bradley has become a force to reckon with. photo: George Wren

AIWA: Jason the Strong (who is managed by Luscious Laura) continues as the American Independent Wrestling Alliance heavyweight champion...Other competitors on the circuit include: Ravage, Hood, Rhino, Rick Sadist, Hardcore Kid, Pete Mendoza, and "Desperado" Mark Kissell.

AWA: The American Wrestling Association, based in Rochester, Minnesota, is back in action after a lengthy hiatus. Jonnie "Giant Killer" Stewart and King Kong Bundy (Chris Pallies) are feuding over the AWA heavyweight championship...The AWA Women's champion is "Sensational" Sherri Martel (Sherry Russell).

ECW: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania's Extreme Championship Wrestling recognizes Mike Awesome as their heavyweight champion. Masato Tanaka has returned to the promotion and is giving the champ a real run for his money.

Steve Corino and Rhino are gunning for the unlikely tag-team championship duo of Raven (Scott Levy) and Tommy Dreamer (Thomas Laughlin)...Rumor has it that the Ultimate Warrior is currently negotiating with ECW for a number of bookings.

Many of ECW's brightest stars have recently returned from touring overseas...Mikey Whipwreck could be back on the scene by the time you read this.

As we go to press, Rob Van Dam (Robert Szatkowski) still has a remarkably tight grasp on the ECW World Television title. Needless to say, Jerry Lynn has retained his position as the number-one contender.

While on the topic of Lynn, he's also been busy teaming with Sabu (Terry Brunk) against the duo of Justin Credible (P.J. Walker) and Lance Storm (Lance Evers)...Newcomer Uganda (Ben Peacock) formerly worked under the names of Botswana Beast and Kamala II. Others on the circuit include: Balls Mahoney (John Rickner), Spike Dudley (Matt Hyson), Cyrus the Virus (Don Callis), Super

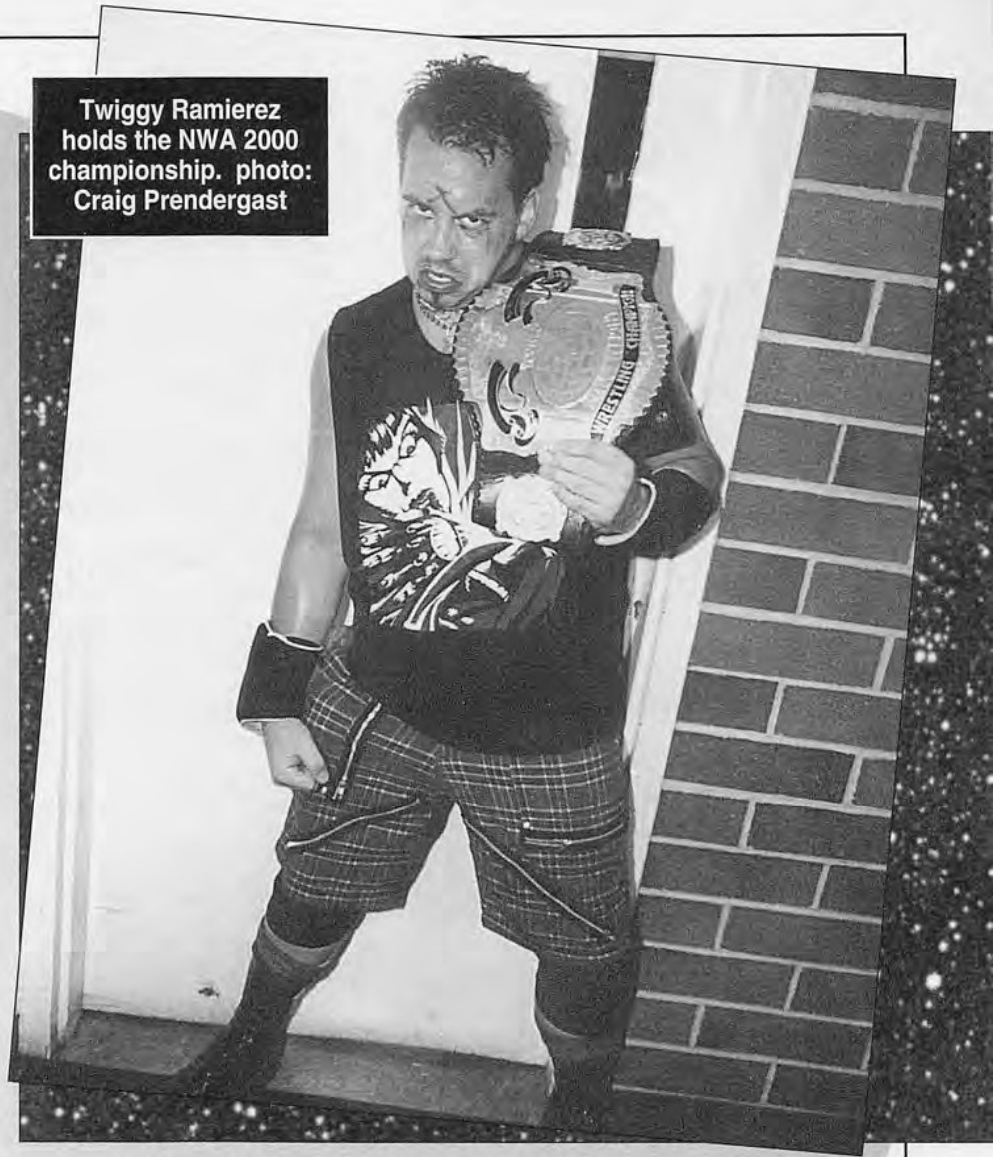
Crazy, El Mosco de la Merced, Chris Candido, Jack Victory (Kenneth Rhinehurst), Chris Chetti, Little Guido (James Moritato), Vito "The Skull" LoGrasso, Yoshihiro Tajiri, Amish Roadkill (Michael DePoli), Francine (Francine Fourmier), Papi Chulo, and Jason (Roland Knight).

EWA: Eastern Wrestling Alliance is based in Jay, Maine. Joshua Shea (disguised as Kentaro San) defeated female manager and grapplerette Master Sandy to capture the EWA World heavyweight title..."Centerfold" Steve Ramsey continues to hold the EWA light-heavyweight gold.

EWA Hardcore titleholder Alexander Darchangelo is currently feuding with Apocalypse...Violent Flame has the EWA Women's crown.

Grapplerettes Malia Hosaka, Amanda Storm, Rusty the Fox, Lisa the Adjuster, Sky Hosoya, and Nasty Sherri are all vying for title bouts against the new pin queen.

Others on the circuit include: Rick "The Model" Martel (Richard Vignault), the 7-foot-tall Canadian Hercules, the Power Twins, Kidd USA, "Special Delivery" Jones (Conrad Efrain), The Pascagoula Shipbuilders, "Delicious" Dave Vicious, Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka (James Reiher), Iron Sheik (Khosrow Vaziri), King Kong Bundy, "Cowboy" Bob Orton Jr., Chief Jules Strongbow (Frank Hill), Nicolai Volkoff (Josip Peruzovic), Demolition Ax (Bill Eadie), "El Matador" Tito Santana (Merced Solis), and Robbie Ellis.



Twiggy Ramierez holds the NWA 2000 championship. photo: Craig Prendergast

Julio Sanchez contemplates an escape from Tommy Rogers' chin lock. photo: John Roselli

EWF: Empire Wrestling Federation, based in San Bernadino, California, recognizes "Knightmare" Tim Patterson as their champion. Others on the circuit include: The Mercenary, "Iceman" John Black, Suicide Kid, "Cruiser" Eddie Williams, Bryan Walsh, Salvatore Sincere (Tom Brandi), and Doink the Clown (Ray Apollo).

HCW: The Columbus, Indiana league recognizes California Kid as the Hoosier Championship Wrestling heavyweight champion...The New Breed (Blade & Lamen) continue to hold the tag-team gold..."Dangerous" Doug Gilbert has the International title...Ms. Sandra is the Women's champ..."Luscious" Lonnie Lee is the light-heavyweight pin king.

Wrestlers currently under the HCW banner include: Bobo Brazil Jr., Rob Conway, Tommy Rich, "Hustler" Rip Rogers, "Diceman" Ronnie Vegas, "Gator" McAllister, and Viper.

ISPW: Independent Superstars of Professional Wrestling, based in West Paterson, New Jersey, is run by King Kong Bundy and Tommy Fierro.

Chris Candido and Sunny have invaded the league and immediately challenged ISPW heavyweight champion Ace Darling (Mike Renaldo).

Many WWF stars have toured the circuit including WWF World light-heavyweight champion Gillberg (Duane Gill), Droz (Darren Drosdov), Prince Albert (Michael Bloom), and Gangrel (David Heath)...Others on the circuit include: light-heavyweight kingpin Billy "Highlight" Reil, Devon Storm, Tom Brandi, Julio Sanchez, Wild Samoan

Francine continues as ECW's resident crowd pleaser. photo: Craig Prendergast

Samu Anoai, and Flash Wheeler.

MPPW: Memphis Power Pro Wrestling of Tennessee has a tremendous crew of young and talented athletes.

Steve Bradley defeated his best friend, former Olympic wrestler Kurt Angle for the MPPW heavyweight title...Derrick King (Derrick Taylor) holds the Young Guns trophy at press time.

Manager Jim Cornette has arrived on the scene and immediately developed a strong stable of maulers including Steve Bradley, Glenn Kulka, Mic Tierney, Kevin Christian (Kevin Lawler), and Downtown Bruno (Bruno Lauer).

Fan favorite Kris "The Dragon" Kannonball (Carl Oulette) is back on the scene after a tour of Japan and has shocked area fans by becoming a rulebreaker. Meanwhile, Vic Grimes (fresh from a WWF tour) has shaved his head and become a fan favorite.

After a brief hiatus, Lance Jade (Bill Pheat) is back. He claims to be the IWO World heavyweight champ.

Kid Wikkid, Wolfie D (Kelly Warren Wolfe), "Bulldog" (Scott) Raines, Robbie D (Robert Dicks Jr.), Streak (Harry Del Rios), Bart Sawyer, Alan Steele, Tony Falk, and Brandon Baxter have all worked here recently.

NWA (NJ): The National Wrestling Alliance, which is headed by President Howard Brody (NWA Florida promoter) and Vice President Dennis Coraluzzo (NWA New Jersey promoter), has expanded its territories throughout the United States and Canada.

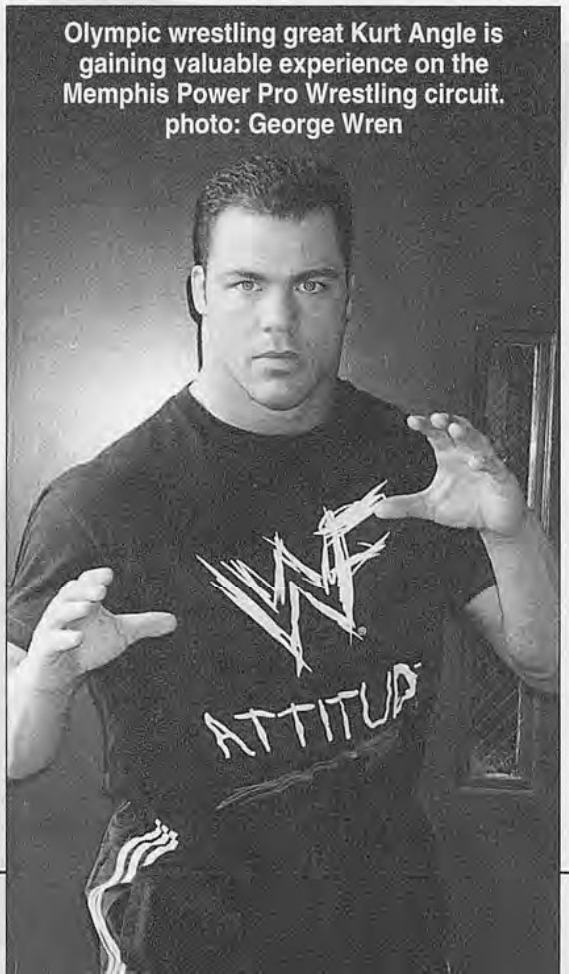
Naoya Ogawa continues as the NWA World heavyweight champion...The Brotherhood are the World tag-team titleholders.

Logan Caine holds the World junior-heavyweight strap...Rik Ratchet has the NWA New Jersey junior-heavyweight championship.

"Dangerous" Doug Gilbert and "Nature Boy" Buddy Landel (William Anson) are the United States tag-team champions. Gilbert also holds the National heavyweight gold...Twiggy Ramierez has the NWA 2000 heavyweight crown...Brittany Brown has the NWA New England Women's title.

Don Brodie wears the NWA Mississippi State heavyweight crown... The Southern Sensations (Lance Jade & Blade Baudreaux) hold the NWA Mississippi tag-team titles.

WWF World cruiserweight champion Gillberg, Rocco Rock (Ted Petty), and Johnny Grunge (Michael Durham) have worked recent shows. ***NWW***



Olympic wrestling great Kurt Angle is gaining valuable experience on the Memphis Power Pro Wrestling circuit. photo: George Wren

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BRIAN HILDEBRAND 1962-1999

by Michael O'Hara

ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1999, BRIAN HILDEBRAND, better known to WCW fans as referee Mark Curtis, passed away after a lengthy battle with stomach cancer. As a wrestling official, he combined the best of both worlds, adhering to the traditions of such legendary referees as Tommy Young, Dick Whoerle, and Johnny "Red Shoes" Duggan, while adding an exciting new dimension to ring supervision.

I had the pleasure of knowing Mark for twenty years. Via the postal service, we kept up-to-date with one another. His letters were always brimming with laughter, joy, and enthusiasm for the road he was traveling on. He never failed to see the humor in every setback and triumph, which is probably why he quickly became one of the most dearly loved figures on the current wrestling scene.

When I first met Brian, he was a student at the University of Dayton in Ohio, but after three years he dropped out and returned to his native Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he spent the next year working at various odd jobs. Never known for leaving a project unfinished, he returned to college and earned a degree in English Communications.

His letters would always tell it like it is. As a radio disc jockey, he wrote, "It wasn't all it was cracked up to be." He dabbled in production at a cable access station, and said, "Too much stress. I damn near had an ulcer!"

After training with Bobby Bold Eagle, he had his first wrestling match. At 5-foot-7 and 145 pounds, he never let the physical limitations get in the way of his ambitions.

He returned to Dayton, Ohio and continued his mat training with Geeto Mongol (Tawtrie Newton), and upon Tawtrie's suggestion, he became a manager—a demented ringside adviser called Hymie Pierce Schwartz.

He returned to Pennsylvania and trained with Dominic Denucci, and worked side by side with a few other mat hopefuls by the names of Shane Douglas, Cactus Jack/Mankind, and Cody Michaels.

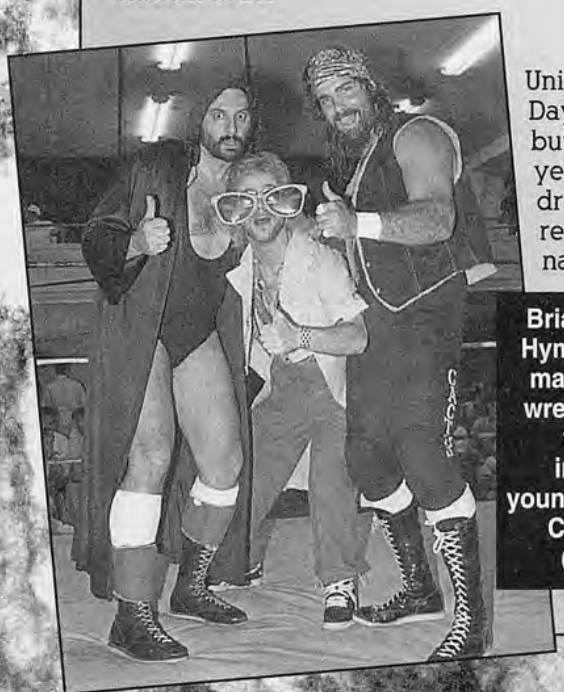
Wrestling was his life. It was all he ever wanted to do, and the sport literally opened its arms to him. Wherever he went and whatever role he was cast, he performed as a true professional—with dignity, humor, and empathy for his fellow wrestling friends.

As Kawabunga the Ninja Wrestling Turtle, Hymie Schwartz, Dr. Mark Curtiss, or referee Mark Curtis, his love of the sport shone through.

Even if you were in the worst possible mood, being in his presence was a sure antidote for the blues. His warmth, humor, and good nature put him in a class by himself.

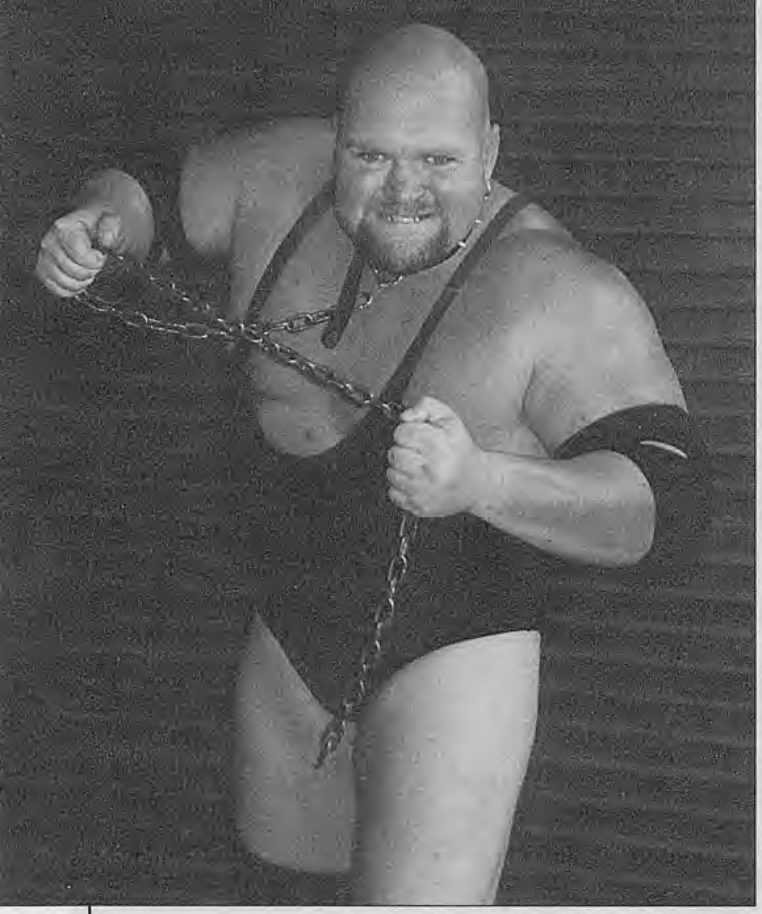
In a sport filled with seven footers, he was a giant of a human being.

Our deepest condolences to his family and friends.



Brian (center as Hymie Schwartz) managed many wrestlers during the 1980s including a young and "svelte" Cactus Jack (far right).

Bulldog Raines



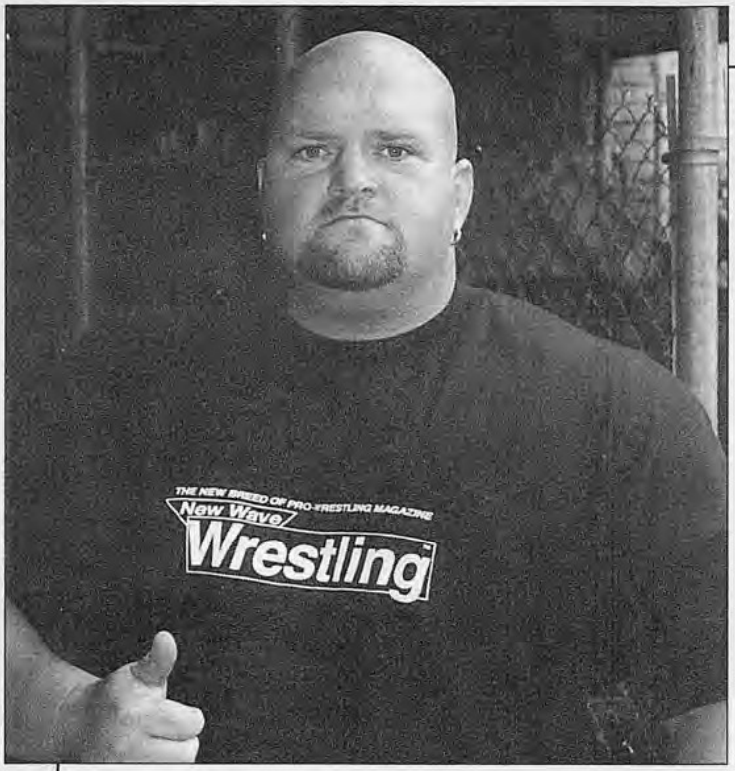
NW: WHAT IS YOUR REAL NAME?
BR: My real name is Scott Raines.
NW: When and where were you born?
BR: I was born on September 30, 1971 in Center, Alabama.
NW: What is your height and weight?
BR: I'm about 5-foot-10 and weigh 285 pounds.
NW: Did you watch wrestling as a kid? Who were some of your favorite wrestlers growing up?
BR: Yes, I watched wrestling. Everybody was great back then. I loved them all. I liked Harley Race, Austin Idol, "Superstar" Billy Graham. I could go on and on.
NW: When and where did you get your start?
BR: I began wrestling about six years ago. I was trained by a guy named Olen James, who I think is probably one of the best wrestlers I know. He's not interested in traveling and wrestles locally. He just likes to have a good time and get out some of his frustrations.

Recon of the Truth Commission trained at the same time as me, and we are best friends now after our training experience.
NW: Have you held any titles?
BR: I've held the Power Pro tag titles with Billy Joe Travis. I also held some local independent titles, but none that are significant.
NW: Do you prefer being a good guy or bad guy?
BR: I could go either way, but I would definitely prefer being a heel if I had to choose.
NW: What other names have you wrestled under?
BR: The only other name I've used is Beau Ladew.
NW: How has wrestling changed since your debut?
BR: A lot of smaller, high-flying guys are in it now. The pace is also much quicker than it used to be, and I only started six years ago, which really isn't that long ago.
NW: Do you think wrestling will be bigger in the new millennium than it is now?
BR: Wrestling's definitely bigger now then it's ever been because of the storylines. The WWF has given audiences some of the greatest storylines ever and that's really why they're number one. They also have great talent. I have many good friends in the WWF who are helping out with the storylines. I think wrestling is going to get bigger and better in the future.
NW: Do you have any regrets about your career?
BR: No. I've loved wrestling ever since I began watching it as a kid. I remember telling everybody that I was going to be a professional wrestler one day.
NW: Where else have you wrestled besides Power Pro?
BR: I've wrestled for many local independents. I worked for the USWA the last three months before they closed their doors. I also wrestled for a month in WCW several years ago in Birmingham, Alabama against NWO Sting. It was his debut with the NWO.
NW: Who has been your toughest opponent?
BR: That's a hard question because there are many tough guys out there. I've wrestled Tommy Rich, Doug Gilbert, but the toughest guy I've ever wrestled would have to be Vic Grimes, who will be competing in the WWF as Kilo or Key in the very near future.
NW: Have you ever thought about what you're going to do if you leave the wrestling business?
BR: If I ever get hurt or injured and can't wrestle anymore, I'll get into some other aspect of the sport like promoting or managing. I've never really thought of leaving the business and doing something else.
NW: What has been the highlight of your career?
BR: Competing in USWA and Power Pro Wrestling are the biggest highlights of my career so far.

I'm trying to get into one of the major leagues where I can make a good living because I enjoy what I'm doing.
NW: What do you think of the new talent in wrestling?
BR: They're great. It really helps me to wrestle the rookies. I try to give them a few pointers and they give me a few pointers. We really learn from each other.

You never stop learning in this sport. Every time you step into the ring you gain new insight. If you ever get to

interview & photos by George Wren



the point where you're not learning anything new, it's time to get out of whatever you're doing.

NW: Do you feel that young guys like yourself don't get the push they deserve?

BR: There are some new guys that get the push like they should and others who have more talent and don't get the push they deserve. It's politics, I guess. Maybe the higher-ups see something in the guys they push that everyone else doesn't see.

NW: What would you like to see happen to your career?

BR: I would like to make a decent living in wrestling so I can support my family. I'd like to wrestle every day of the week. I'm going to keep on wrestling until I can't walk anymore. I enjoy what I'm doing that much.

NW: Are you married?

BR: No, I live with my girlfriend.

NW: What kind of music do you like?

BR: I listen to everything from bluegrass to heavy metal, but I mainly listen to heavy metal like AC/DC, Metallica, and a lot of speed metal that is out there these days. I like the heavy kick that kind of music gives you.

NW: What do you like to do when you're not wrestling?

BR: I go fishing. I really love to fish.

NW: What are your favorite foods?

BR: Well, a man like myself eats everything from steaks to hamburgers to pizza. I eat all kinds of food, but I would say I like steak and chicken the best.

NW: Do you have any parting words to your fans?

BR: Yes, please keep watching wrestling so that it'll grow and get back to where every league, both the majors and independents, can make some money.

My advice to fans is do what you want to do in this life. Don't listen to anybody else telling you what you can or can't do with your life.

NW: Thanks for this interview and good luck.

BR: I appreciate it. I enjoy doing interviews and letting fans know about pro wrestling and how wrestlers feel about what's going on in the business. ***NWW***

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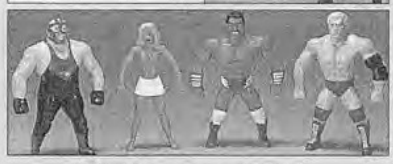

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AWA's Greatest Title Matches Rick Martel vs. Jumbo Tsuruta. Nick Bockwinkel vs. Verne Gagne. Rick Martel vs. Michael Hayes.

Bad Guys (1985) Two police officers join the ranks of pro wrestling in this farce-filled film featuring Sgt. Slaughter, Prof. Taru Tanaka, Alexi Smirnoff & many other top mat stars.

Body Slam (1987) A sleazy talent agent decides to promote pro wrestling & rock 'n' roll. Features Roddy Piper, "Captain" Lou Albano, Tonga Kid & others.

Combat Sports® Mat Movie Classics Vol. 1 Gorgeous George's feature-film debut—*Alias the Champ* (1949).

Jim Garvin & Steve Regal The talented twosome battle The Road Warriors, Scott Hall & Curt Hennig & others.

Greatest AWA Tag-Team Bouts Curt Hennig & Greg Gagne vs. Freebirds. "Crusher" Blackwell & Sgt. Slaughter vs. Road Warriors. Mr. Saito & Nick Bockwinkel vs. The Gagnes.

Greatest Sports Legends: Bruno Sammartino Highlights of the WWWF champion's career including clips against Spiros Arion, Stan Hansen, "Killer" Kowalski, "The Big Cat" Ernie Ladd, Gorilla Monsoon, "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers & The Sheik.

Greatest Sports Legends: 101 Superstars Highlights of the great sports figures including WWWF World champion Bruno Sammartino, plus Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and dozens more!

Grunt! The Wrestling Movie (1987) Pro-wrestling star "Mad Dog" Joe DeCurso mysteriously disappears. Some fans think he's dead, why others speculate that he's become a newcomer called The Mask! Features many top stars including: "Exotic" Adrian Street, "Maniac" John Tolos, "Dirty " Dick Murdoch, Victor Rivera, and many more!

Hulk Hogan's AWA Battles Hulk vs. AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel. Andre the Giant & Hulk vs. Heenan, Bob Duncum, Bockwinkel & Ken Patera.

Japan's Greatest Women Wrestlers Yukari Omori & Ayumi Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itsuki Yamasaki. Masked You & Kaoru Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Nagayo Chigusa. Rimi Yokota vs. Las Garacita. Rimi Yokota vs. Tenjin Masami.

Mad Bull (1979) Alex Karras plays a pro wrestler troubled by his devotion to the traditions of his Greco-Roman mat past.

Madison Square Garden's Greatest Wrestling Antonino Rocca against Don Leo Jonathan, Lou Kim, Primo Carnera, and two title bouts with NWA World champ Lou Thesz. Lord Leslie Carlton vs. Johnny Barrend. "Killer" Kowalski vs. Verne Gagne & Gene Stanlee.

Midget Madness A lightheartened look at mini wrestlers—Sky Low Low, Little Mr. T, Little Tokyo, Cowboy Lang & others.

Mil Mascaras vs. Los Vampiros de Cayoacan (1968) Matdom's greatest masked mat star battles mini ghouls, werewolves & vampires in this classic grappling flick. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Neutron vs. The Maniac (1960) The masked Mexican wrestling hero battles a killer (dubbed in English).

Neutron vs. The Death Robots (1961) Matdom's superhero battles the ultimate killing machine (dubbed in English).

Neutron and The Black Mask (1962) Mexico's hero collides with crooks and their handy bomb! (dubbed in English).

Neutron vs. Dr. Caronte (1962) The hooded star battles a mad scientist and his monster army! (in English)

No Holds Barred (1952) The Bowery Boys tackle rasslin' gangsters in this flick featuring many mat greats. Bonus—*Rasslin' Match*—an Amos & Andy cartoon!

Not-So-Great Moments in Sports Vol. 2 (1988) Wild 'n' weird moments in the sporting world including highlights of Jack Dempsey vs. "Cowboy" Luttrell, Muhammad Ali vs. Antonio Inoki and Chuck Wepner vs. Andre the Giant in boxer versus wrestler matches!

The One And Only (1981) Henry "The Fonz" Winkler stars in this fun-filled film loosely based on the wrestling career of "Gorgeous" George.

Pro-Wrestling's Greatest Heroes Lou Thesz vs. Vic Christy. "Argentina" Rocca vs. Benito Gardini. Ed Carpentier vs. Baron Mikel Scicluna. Ricky Starr vs. Karl von Hess. Bruno Sammartino vs. "Magnificent" Maurice. Verne Gagne vs. Larry Hennig. Gene Stanlee vs. Kola Kwariani. Bobo Brazil vs. Johnny Barrend. Sam Steamboat vs. Mike Sharpe Sr. Great Scott & Rocca vs. Karl & Eric von Hess.

Pro-Wrestling's Greatest Matches Bruno Sammartino vs. Fred Blassie. Buddy Rogers vs. Johnny Valentine. Ed Carpentier & Antonino Rocca vs. Skull Murphy & Pampero Firpo. The Kangaroos & Dr. Jerry Graham vs. Antonino Rocca, Miguel Perez & Ricky Starr. Buddy Rogers vs. Bobo Brazil. Lord James Blears vs. Baron Michele Leone. Mr. Moto vs. Henry Hank. Joe Louis vs. Sky High Lee. Nick Bockwinkel vs. Matt Murphy. Gallaghers vs. "Magnificent" Maurice & Johnny Barrend. Primo Carnera vs. Jim Londos. The Sheik vs. Jim Melby. Buddy Rogers vs. Pat O'Connor.

Pro-Wrestling's Greatest Villains Dr. Jerry & Eddie Graham vs. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez. Buddy Rogers vs. Abe Jacobs. Fred Blassie vs. The Hangman. "Killer" Kowalski vs. Yukon Eric. Fritz von Erich vs. Bobby Brown. The Millers vs. Kangaroos. Crusher vs. Johnny Valentine. Gorgeous George vs. Larry Moquin. The Bruiser & Hans Schmidt vs. The Volkoffs. Jack Allen & "The Bavarian Boy" Rudy vs. The Sicilians.

Racket (Pindown) Girls (1950) Mobsters take advantage of innocent girl grapplers.

The Road Warriors LOD vs. Curt Hennig & Baron von Raschke and The Hennigs.

Santo vs. The Zombie Invasion (1961) A mad scientist and his monster army seek world conquest (dubbed in English).

Santo vs. The Vampire Women (1961) Need we say more? (dubbed in English)

Santo in the Wax Museum (1963) A mad scientist is turning people into wax figures (dubbed in English).

Santo's Secret Caribbean Mission (1968) The masked mauler tackles drug dealers. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Santo vs. The Strangler (1964) There's a wild man on a murder spree. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Santo and El Tesoro de Moctezuma (1968) The Silver gladiator battles against great warriors from the past. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Santo vs. The Yellow Mafia (1975) The silver mask squares off against Yellow Dragon and his gang of drug runners. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Santo vs. Blue Demon in Atlantica (1968) Mexico's two grapplin' greats team to stop an undersea monarch. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Santo & Blue Demon in The World of the Dead (1979) The dynamic duo clash with a ruthless gang of zombie robbers. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Santo's Mystery of the Black Pearl The masked man finds romance and intrigue. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Sgt. Slaughter Vol. 1 Sarge battles Larry Zbyszko, Boris Zhukov, and battle-royal action.

Sgt. Slaughter Vol. 2 Action with Larry Zbyszko, Boris Zhukov & others.

Secrets of Pro Wrestling This video exposes how all the exciting mat moves are done!

Super Argo (1966) Argo versus humanoids in this Italian entry into the wrestling-hero genre!

Thunder in Paradise Two-hour TV pilot with Hulk Hogan.

Thunderground (1989) The saga of a bare-knuckles brawler (Paul Coufos) and his quest to battle "The Man" (Jesse Ventura), the king of bare-fisted battle.

UWF Wrestling Vol. 1 UWF champion Steve "Dr. Death" Williams vs. "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff in a lumberjack match featuring Cactus Jack, Don "The Rock" Muraco, Tom Brandi & others.

UWF Wrestling Vol. 2 "Wildman" Jack Armstrong & Cactus Jack vs. Chief Strongbow & David Sammartino. The Blackhearts vs. Dave Johnson & Joe DeFuria.

UWF Wrestling Vol. 3 Steve Williams vs. Paul Orndorff in a cage match. "Cowboy" Bob Orton Jr. vs. B. Brian Blair. Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Samoan Afa.

UWF Wrestling Vol. 4 Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff battles Steve Williams, "Cowboy" Bob Orton Jr. & "Spitball" Patterson.

Wacky World of Sports Bob Uecker hosts a program featuring sports bloopers including a profile on Hulk Hogan and the 1980s wrestling craze.

The Wrestling Assassin (1961) A country sheriff tracks down a murderer who happens to be a masked, wrestling champ. **(SPANISH/NO SUBTITLES!)**

Wrestling Funnies Vol. 1 A lighthearted look at the top wrestlers and valets.

Wrestling Funnies Vol. 2 Another volume of silly slams & hilarious holds featuring Ric Flair, Ron Garvin, JYD, The Rock & Roll Express & more!

Wrestling's Golden Era Vol. 1 Mark Lewin vs. Ox Baker. "Crusher" Verdue vs. "Cowboy" Frankie Laine. Garth Vader vs. Stan "The Man" Stasiak. The Sheik vs. Stan Stasiak. Dr. Jerry Graham vs. T-bolt Patterson.

Wrestling's Golden Era Vol. 2 Mickey Doyle & Billy Red Lyons vs. Angelo & Lanny Poffo. Stan Stasiak vs. Don Kent.

Wrestling's Golden Era Vol. 3 Features "Argentina" Antonino Rocca, Dick the Bruiser, The Sheik & Women wrestlers!

Wrestling's Golden Era Vol. 4 Bruno Sammartino vs. Hans Schmidt. Dr. Jerry & Eddie Graham vs. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez. Bobo Brazil vs. Sky Hi Lee. The Kangaroos vs. Moose Cholak & The Mighty Atlas. Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard vs. The Bavarian Boys.

Wrestling Queen 1970s documentary on female wrestler Vivian Vachon—features Andre the Giant, The Blackjacks (Mulligan & Lanza), Vachons ("Mad Dog" Maurice & "Butcher" Paul) & many others!

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 1 Andre the Giant vs. The Spoiler. "Bruiser" Brody vs. The Twin Devils. "Maniac" Mark Lewin vs. Dusty Rhodes. "Killer" Tim Brooks & Ivan the Terrible vs. Tiger Conway Jr. & Tiny Tom in a mixed big man/mini match. Victor the Wrestling Bear vs. Manager Gary Hart.

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 2 Ken Patera vs. Jose Lothario. Leroy Brown vs. "Killer" Tim Brooks. Wenona Little Heart vs. Judy Martin. Dusty Rhodes vs. Ivan Koloff in a Coffin Match.

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 3 Dusty Rhodes, "Dirty" Dick Slater & Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat vs. Black Bart, "Outlaw" Ron Bass & Tully Blanchard. "Ragin' Bull" Manny Fernandez & Buzz Tyler vs. Dory Funk Jr. & Black Bart. Barry Windham & Mike Rotunda vs. Kelly & Gary Royal. Greg "The Hammer" Valentine vs. Steve Muslin. Ivan Koloff & Don Kernodle vs. The Youngbloods.

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 4 Jake "The Snake" Roberts vs. Lord Humongous. "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan vs. "Mad Dog" Buzz Sawyer. The Bruise Brothers (Mad Dog & Pork Chop) vs. The Bushwhackers (Luke & Butch). Jake "The Snake" Roberts vs. Dick Slater w/Dark Journey. Also—a Bunkhouse battle royal!

Wrestling Spectacular Vol. 5 Kabuki vs. Steve Muslin. The Assassins vs. Rick McCord & Keith Larson. Ricky Steamboat & Jay Youngblood vs. Gary Royal & Kelly Kiniski. Mark Youngblood vs. Dick Slater. "Brickhouse" Brown & Gene Ligon vs. Ivan Koloff & Don Kernodle. Tully Blanchard vs. Brett Hart (Barry Horowitz). Chief Wahoo McDaniel & Charlie Brown ("Handsome" Jimmy Valiant) vs. The Assassins. Mark Youngblood & Angelo Mosca vs. Magic Dragon & Bill Howard.

Wrestling Women & The Doctor of Doom (1961) Beware—a demented doctor and his monster are on the loose! (dubbed in English)

Wrestling Women vs. Aztec Mummy (1963) The gorgeous grapplerettes battle a mad mummy (dubbed in English).

Larry Zbyszko "The New Living Legend" collides with such stellar competitors as Sgt. Slaughter, Greg Gagne & Larry Winters.

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Wrestling & Romance

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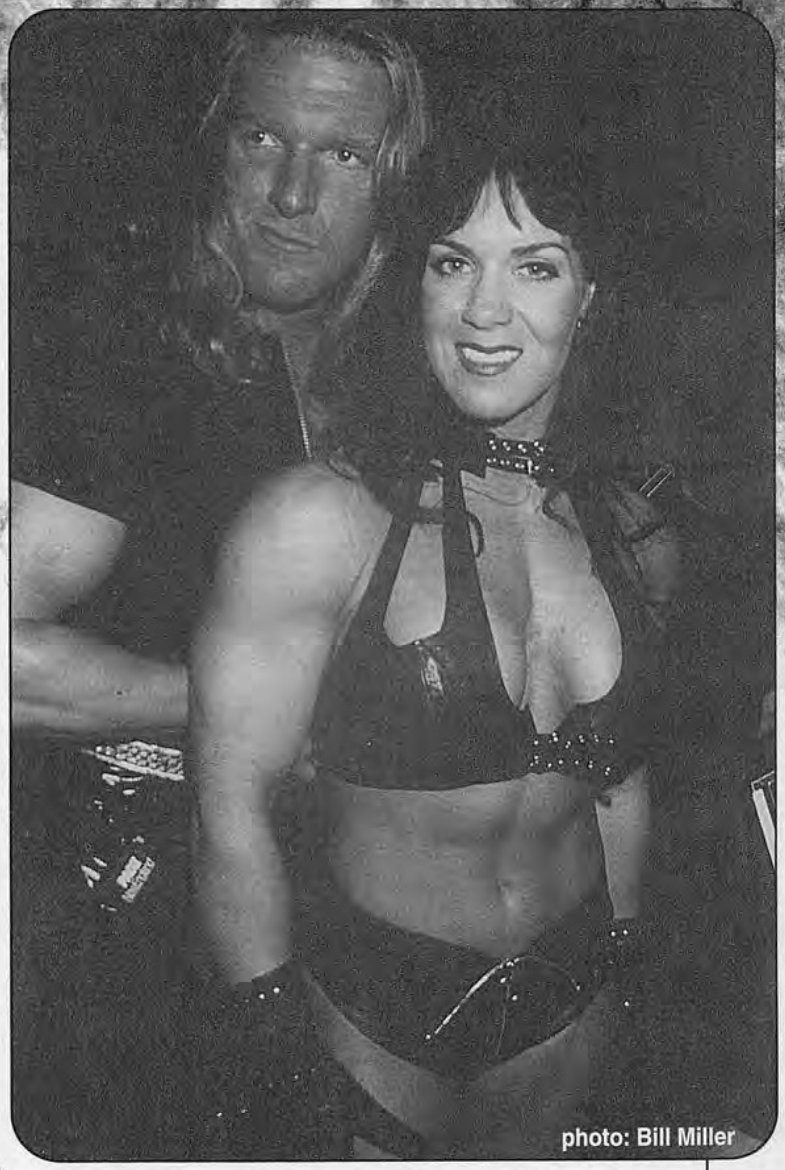
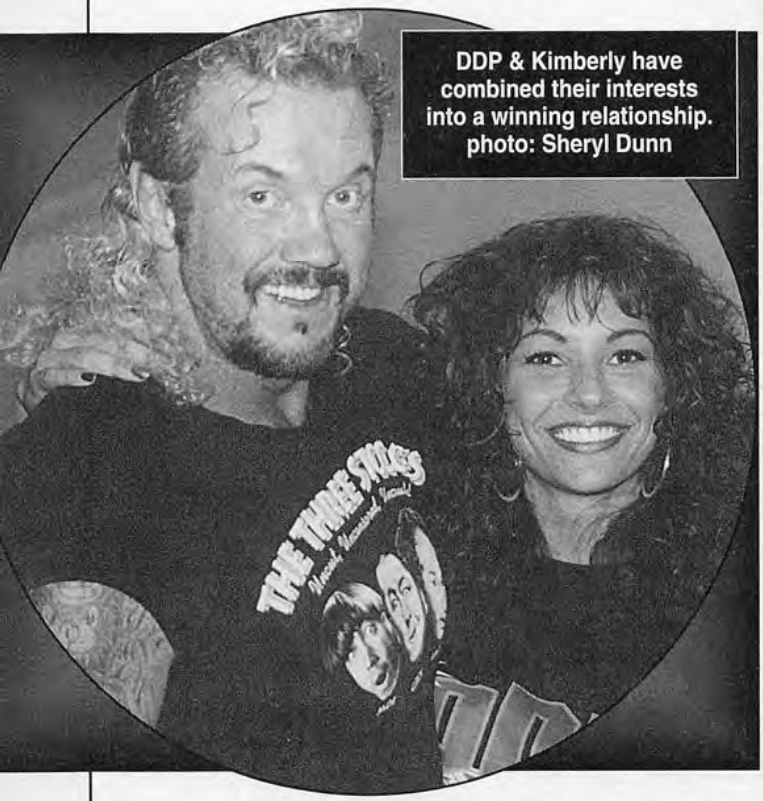


photo: Bill Miller

THE WRESTLING PROFESSION IS INDEED A world filled with mystery. It is unlike just about any other career path, and that's probably why so many people are fascinated by the day-to-day activities of the grapplin' guys and gals away from the ring. In the various interviews featured in each issue, you can obtain a general sense of the hardships faced by married pro wrestlers. They are basically away from their loved ones for extended periods of time, and, for better or worse, it's a life of isolation.

Twenty years ago, a wrestler and his family could settle into a community and develop a stable life thanks to the many regional booking offices. An athlete could divide his time between a couple of promotions, one in his home state and the other in a neighboring state, and he'd pretty much be set for his entire career. Today, with matches booked haphazardly from one coast to the other, a wrestler finds himself spending more time booking airline flights and hotel reservations than he does spending time with his spouse and children. That's the price one must pay for grappling greatness.



DDP & Kimberly have combined their interests into a winning relationship. photo: Sheryl Dunn

In recent times, we've seen wrestlers devoid of their ring theatrics in several documentaries. One of the best is *Wrestling With Shadows*, which chronicled Bret "The Hitman" Hart's angst-ridden relationship with former boss Vince McMahon. Even more intriguing was the subplot of Bret and wife Julie as they tried to cope with the nomadic elements of the sport. Since the release of the documentary, Bret and Julie have split up, but the film offers great insight into how difficult it is to mix rassling and romance.

MTV's presentation of *True Life: I Am A Pro Wrestler* showcased the relationship of Hunter Hearst Helmsley and Chyna. Unlike the Harts, Triple H and Chyna are not married, have no children, and are not hampered by the constraints of day-to-day family expectations. Beyond that, they have one very important ingredient that will make or break the best of relationships—common ground. As professional wrestlers, Hunter and Chyna can relate to one another's needs. They work out together, they book their travel arrangements together, and they deal with the same people on a daily basis. While most couples struggle to

story by Michael O'Hara

find common interest, this duo can probably carry their discussions into the wee hours of the night.

A married wrestler usually feels like an outsider wherever they go. While on the road, they feel guilty about not being more available to their loved ones, and whenever they get home for a few days, they sometimes feel like an intruder since the family has learned to fill the void left by their absence.

Some working wrestling couples do make it work. Diamond Dallas Page and his lovely wife Kimberly are living proof. He pursues his dream in the ring, while, at the same time, she has been able to put her talents as a dancer to good use as the leader of the Nitro Girls.

The husband/wife mat duo are not without their own set of problems. For quite some time, Luna and Gangrel were booked all over the country for various independent wrestling promotions. On any given night, they could be three thousand miles apart, but they persevered. Today, both accomplished mat masters are competing under the WWF banner, so their monthly long-distance phone bills must have dropped considerably.

Wrestling and romance is a unique tag-team combination. On the surface, a wrestler's life looks pretty easy. Huge paychecks for 15 or 20 minutes of work sounds great, but if you believe that's all there is to it, you're doing a great disservice to the hearty men and women of the ring. If you ask the wrestlers and their families what it's like, they'll probably tell you the no-holds-barred truth. There is a high price to pay for becoming one of the elite in today's grappling game. ***NWW***

Luna and Gangrel are an unusual but happy couple. photo: Jerry Wilson

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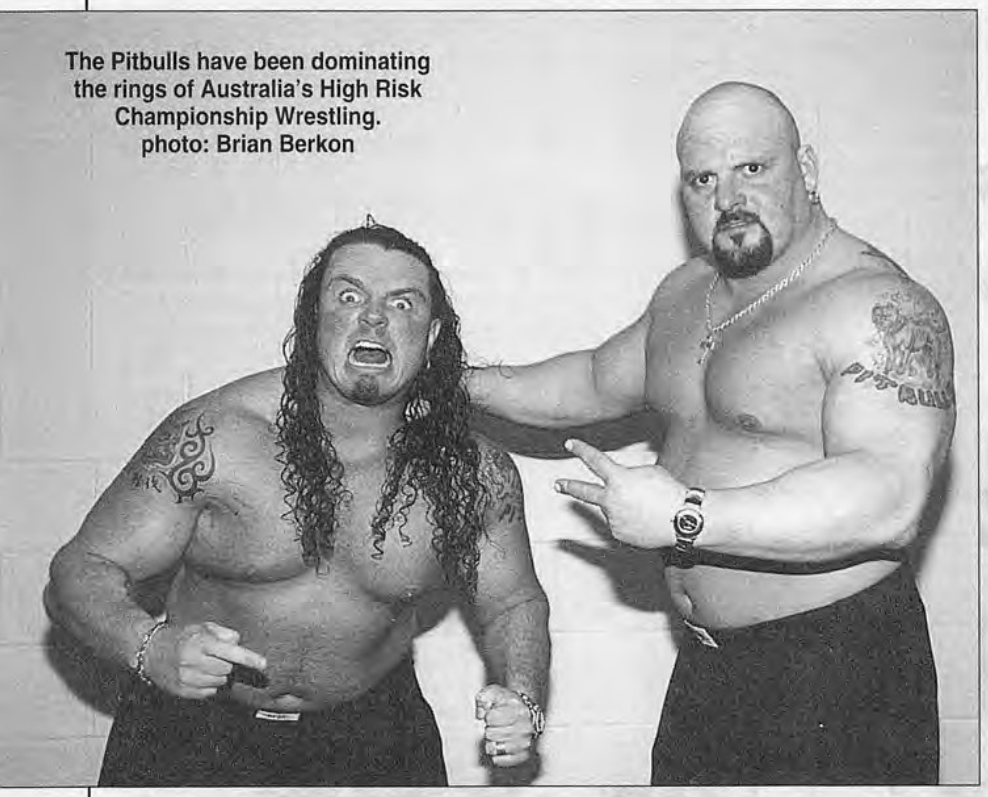

The Pitbulls have been dominating the rings of Australia's High Risk Championship Wrestling. photo: Brian Berkon

AFRICA

IWCN: The International Wrestling Club of Nigeria recognizes "Nigeria Police Force" O.C. Muzeze as the IWCN super-heavyweight champion...The World Katanka holds the IWCN heavyweight gold...The Marvelous Iron Brothers have the National and African tag titles...Tina Terror is the IWCN World Class Women's champion.

IWF/UWF: The South African promotion recognizes Danie Brits as the UWF World mid-heavy kingpin...Tatanka (Chris Chavis) holds the CWA and IWF World heavyweight titles...The Dynamite Kid is the South African light-heavy champ...Danie Voges has the CWA South African super-heavyweight crown...Fury (Marc Laurinatis) and Rage (Al Greene) of Wrecking Crew hold the World tag-team straps.

NWF: Tony Destroyer (Tony Nwdoueze) is the Nigeria Wrestling Federation World heavyweight champion...Sunny Wonder is the National light-heavyweight titleholder...Iron FineFace has the National middleweight title...De Stubborn Headache (Sandra Varney Sherif) has the African Women's crown.

AUSTRALIA

HRCW: Legendary wrestler-turned-promoter "Maniac" Mark Lewin recently toured Australia with his High Risk Championship Wrestling league. The events featured such stellar international stars as Nailz (Kevin Wacholz), the Pitbulls (Anthony Durante & Gary Wolfe), Primo Carnera III (Michael Fury), John Kronus (who was also billed on the tour as Brute Force), the Wild Turk, Disciples of Apocalypse (Ron & Don Harris), and the Abdullah Brothers (known in Japan as the Headhunters).

According to various reports, the events in Sydney and Brisbane drew poorly, so it's doubtful that this promising promotion will continue on.

AWF: The Australian Wrestling Federation's recent events, billed as Psychoticslam '99, included a number of ECW superstars including Sabu (Terry Brunk), Chris Candido, Sunny (Tammy Sytch), and Marty Jannetty.

Local wrestler Vulkan and the 7-foot-tall Thunder also competed.

AUSTRIA & GERMANY

GWF: German Wrestling Federation is promoting American-style mat action. Berlin champion Karsten Kretschmer is feuding with top contender "Crazy Sexy" Mike.

Ulf Hermann holds the GWF heavyweight championship and is busy holding back the challenges of former titleholder Carlos Gallero.

Others on the circuit include Blue Adonis, Johnny Cash (no, not the famed

South Africa's Danie Voges & Danie Brits.

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All-Star Wrestling Vol. 4 Chavo Guerrero vs. Ben Alexander. Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood vs. Bill Howard & Tom Lynch. Dick Slater vs. Keith Larsen. Roddy Piper & Wahoo McDaniel vs. Kiniski & Alexander. Kabuki vs. Keith Larsen. Greg Valentine vs. John Bonello.

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 5 "Nature Boy" Ric Flair & Bob Orton Jr. vs. Bill Howard & Jerry Grey. Charlie Brown (Jimmy Valiant), Terry Gibbs & Brickhouse Brown vs. Kelly Kiniski, Grey & Lentz. Mark Lewin & Kevin Sullivan vs. Vin Valentino & Bonello. Assassins vs. Keith Larsen & Rick McCord. Rufus Jones & Bugsy McGraw vs. Jerry Grey & Tom Lentz. Baron von Raschke vs. John Bonello.

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 6 Mark Lewin & Kevin Sullivan vs. John Bonello & Garth Hart. Assassins vs. Terry Gibbs & Steve Muslin. Chavo Guerrero & Wahoo McDaniel vs. Tom Lentz & Mark Lewin. Assassins vs. Mike Davis & Rick McCord. Jack & Jerry Brisco vs. Mike Haven & Mark Fleming.

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 7 Ric Flair & Wahoo McDaniel vs. Tom Lentz & Jerry Grey. Assassins vs. Mark Fleming & Larsen. Rufus Jones & Charlie Brown vs. Grey & Magic Dragon. Youngbloods vs. Jerry Grey & Kelly Kiniski. Wahoo McDaniel vs. Bill Howard.

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 8 Steve Muslin & John Bonello vs. Assassins. Rufus R. Jones & Mike Rotunda vs. Joel Deaton & Kelly Kiniski. Greg Valentine vs. Steve Muslin. Magic Dragon vs. Chavo Guerrero. Charlie Brown (Jim Valiant) vs. B. Alexander.

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 11 Kamala vs. Butch Reed. Chavo Guerrero vs. "Fabulous One" Steve Keirn.

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 13 Dog-collar match: Buzz Sawyer vs. Jim Duggan. Jake Roberts vs. Dick Slater.

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 16 North American title: Butch Reed vs. "Dirty" Dick Slater.

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 17 Nightmare & Humongous vs. Jake "The Snake" Roberts & Jim Duggan.

All-Star Wrestling Vol. 18 Al Perez, Ricky Gibson & Hector Guerrero vs. Steve Williams, Eddie Gilbert & The Nightmare.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 1 Bob Orton Jr. vs. Karl Kox. Zapata vs. Mr. Olympia. Samoans vs. JYD & Mike George. No DQ: Dusty Rhodes & Dick Murdoch vs. Samoans. Wrestler/mini women's mixed tag: Diamond Lil & Rick Ferrara vs. Barbie Doll & Tony Charles. Samoans vs. Junk Yard Dog & Brian Blair.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 2 One Man Gang, Samoans & Skandor Akbar attack Ernie Ladd. Iron Sheik vs. Kobra. Ted DiBiase vs. Paul Orndorff. Samoans vs. Ferrara & Bill Ash. JYD vs. Bob Roop.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 3 Jimmy Garvin (with Precious) vs. Billy Brooks. Steve Regal & Jim Garvin vs. Wahoo McDaniel. JYD vs. Grappler. Orton, Jr. (w/ Orndorff & Samoans) vs. Mike George (w/ Dusty Rhodes & JYD). Ed Wiskowski & Orton vs. DiBiase & Mr. Olympia. JYD vs. Terry Orndorff (Shane Douglas).

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Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 6 Andre vs. The Sheik. "Chief" Jay Strongbow vs. Don Kent (shark cage). Bruiser Brody & Scott Casey vs. Spoiler & Kelly Kiniski. Pampero Firpo vs. Jeff Doney.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 7 Terry Boulder (Hulk Hogan) vs. Andre the Giant (arm wrestling). "Cowboy" Bob Ellis vs. Bobby Heenan.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 8 Nick Bockwinkel vs. Magnum T.A. Tito Santana vs. Kelly Kiniski. Ivan Putski vs. Eddie Mansfield.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 9 Tully Blanchard vs. Wahoo McDaniel. Sheik vs. Tom Jones. Bobo Brazil vs. Michael Angelo.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol 10 Mud match: Sheik vs. Tiger Jeet Singh. Hulk (Hogan) Boulder vs. Outlaw. Tully Blanchard & Gino Hernandez vs. Scott Casey & Magnum T.A.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 11 Terry Taylor vs. Sabu Samoa. Wahoo McDaniel, Marty Jannetty & Tom Rogers vs. The Grapplers & Ted Oates.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 12 Short clips & full bouts with Gorgeous George, Fritz von Erich, Yukon Eric, Buddy Rogers, Bobo Brazil & more.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 13 Butch Reed vs. The Giant Kamala.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 14 Jim Duggan vs. Ted DiBiase.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 15 Ric Flair vs. Terry Taylor.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 16 Ric Flair vs. Wahoo McDaniel.

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 17 Ted DiBiase & Steve Williams vs. Hector & Chavo Guerrero (cage bout).

Super Wrestling All Stars Vol. 18 Fantastics & Jim Duggan vs. Midnight Express & Jim Cornette.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 1 Nick Bockwinkel vs. Fernandez. Hulk Hogan vs. Lawler. Sheik vs. Lewin.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 2 Randy Savage & Lanny Poffo vs. R&R Express. Blondes vs. PYTs. Randy Savage vs. Jerry Lawler (cage).

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 3 Andre the Giant, JYD & Dusty Rhodes vs. Samoans & Ernie Ladd. Tony Charles vs. Paul Orndorff. Iron Sheik vs. King Kobra. Zapata vs. Mr. Olympia. Bob Orton Jr. vs. Jim Garvin.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 4 JYD vs. Bob Roop. DiBiase vs. Paul Orndorff. JYD & Brian Blair vs. Samoans. Ed Wiskowski vs. DiBiase. JYD & Mike George vs. Samoans.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 5 Randy Savage & Lanny Poffo vs. R&R Express. Rick Rude, Jim Neidhart, Ox Baker & Assassin vs. Robert Reed, Tiger Mask, Keith Eric & Mad Dog. Road Warriors vs. Austin Idol & Jerry Lawler. Terry Boulder vs. Outlaw.

World's Greatest Wrestling Vol. 7 Lawler vs. Kamala. Ray Stevens, Blackjack Mulligan & Von Raschke vs. Crusher, Bruiser & Art Thomas.

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Chris Candido has been a busy world traveler as of late. photo: Don Laible

singer), Marty Shaw, Gary Mountain, Ralf Seeger, and Sgt. Storm.

CANADA

CAWF: Can-Am Wrestling Federation of Alberta recognizes Steve Wilde as the heavyweight champion...Black Dragon (Bret Como) holds the mid-heavy title...K.C. Houston continues as the Women's champion...Keith Hart and Vinnie Fever are the tag-team kingpins.

ECCW/NWA•PNW: Extremely Canadian Championship Wrestling of British Columbia is also known as NWA Pacific Northwest. "Gorgeous" Michelle Starr has the NWA Pacific Northwest junior-heavyweight title...E.Z. Ryder has the NWA Canadian heavyweight crown.

"Tornado" Tony Kozina defeated "Kool Daddy Swing" Tony McGuire and "Showtime" Robbie Royce in a triple-threat match to capture the NWA Canadian junior-heavyweight championship...Toxic Insanity (Juggernaut and Biohazard) regained the NWA Canadian tag-team titles from Spyder & "Dirty" Dan Denton..."Rocket" Randy Tyler holds the Vancouver Island title.

COSTA RICA

CNLP: American Express is the Consejo Nacional de Lucha Profesional heavyweight champion...Mutante II continues as the light-heavyweight titleholder...Muerte and Duende are the tag champs...The welterweight kingpin is Renegado.

GREAT BRITAIN

All Star: We have no major title changes to report since our last issue. "Superstar" Sanders is the European middleweight champion...Marty Jones is the World middle-heavyweight kingpin...Danny Collins has the World light-heavyweight strap...Ian Wilson is the British light-heavy titleholder...Sweet Saraya is the Women's champion... Brian Maxine is the middleweight champ...The lightweight champion is Steve Grey.

JAPAN

All-Japan:: Mitsuharu Misawa is the Triple Crown titleholder...Johnny Ace & Bart Gunn hold the World tag-team titles...Yoshinari Ogawa is the AJPW World junior-heavyweight titleholder.

FMW: Yukihiro Kanemura is the World Brass Knuckles champion...Mr. Gannosuke is the Independent World heavyweight titleholder...Yu Hi Sano has the World junior-heavyweight gold.

New Japan: The Great Muta (Keiji Muto) is the IWGP heavyweight champ...Yuji Nagota & Manabu Nakanishi are the IWGP heavyweight tag-team champs...The Great Sasuke & Jushin "Thunder" Lyger hold the IWGP junior-heavy tag titles...Kendo Ka Shin has the IWGP junior-heavy strap.

MEXICO

AAA: Octagoncito is the World mini champion...El Espectro Jr. defeated Mascara Sagrada Jr. for the middleweight crown...Women's champion Xochitl Hamada is feuding with Yuki Miyazaki...Los Vatos Locos and the Kickboxers are feuding over the eight-man tag belts.

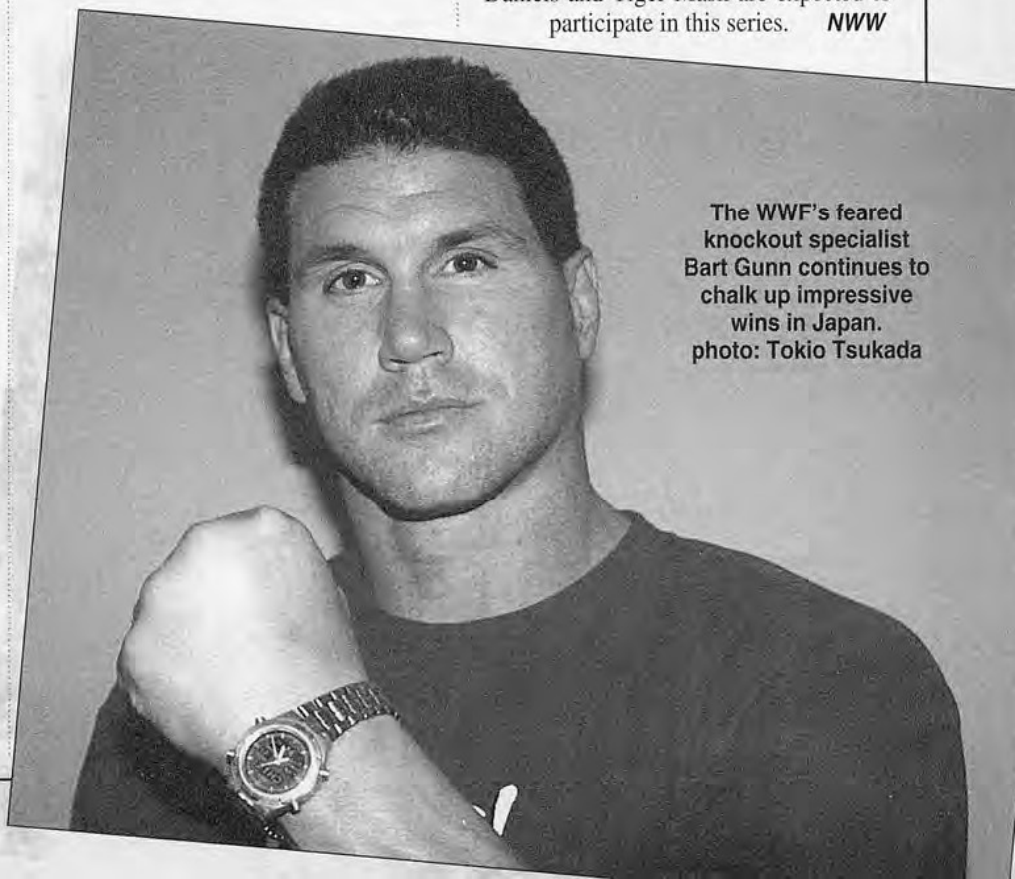
CMLL: WWF star "Giant" Paul Silva (of Oddities fame) has been teaming with El Hijo del Santo and Brazo de Plata in recent six-man tag action. Another Oddity—Kurrgan (Robert Malloy)—has been teaming with Apollo Dantes Jr. and Cien Caras.

PUERTO RICO

WWC: Local legends Carlos Colon and Jose Rivera Sr. reunited to upset World Wrestling Council Universal champion Ray Gonzalez (Rámon González Rivera) and Chicky Starr...Glamour Boy Shane (Shane Sweud) is the TV titleholder... The Intercontinental champ is Pierroth (Norberto Salgado)...Rockero (Luis Zayas) is the junior-heavy kingpin.

WALES

IWW: WCW's Mikey Whipwreck and ECW's Jerry Lynn have recently worked for this emerging promotion. As we go to press, the European J Cup will be awarded to the winner of a junior-heavyweight tournament. Christopher Daniels and Tiger Mask are expected to participate in this series. ***NWW***



The WWF's feared knockout specialist Bart Gunn continues to chalk up impressive wins in Japan. photo: Tokio Tsukada

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Vol. 4 Warren Bockwinkel vs. Wilbur Snyder + "Crippler" Carl Davis interview.

Vol. 5 Jack MacDonald vs. Wilbur Snyder (2/3 falls).

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Vol. 15 Yukon Eric vs. Hans Schmidt. Larry Chene vs. Hessell.

Vol. 16 Yukon Eric vs. Hans Herman. Rasputin vs. Pat O'Connor.

Vol. 17 Mitsu Arakawa vs. Tom Martindale. Sky High Lee & Rudy Kay vs. Crusher & The Sheik. Pat O'Connor vs. The Mighty Atlas.

Vol. 18 Yukon Eric vs. "Killer" Kowalski. Larry Chene vs. Bobby Nelson.

Vol. 19 Verne Gagne vs. Lee Hennig. Timothy Geohagen vs. The Masked Marvel. Gene Stanlee vs. "Black Panther" Jim Mitchell.

Vol. 20 Fritz von Erich vs. Ilio DiPaolo. Guy & Joe Brunetti vs. Doc & Mike Gallagher.

Vol. 21 Brother Frank Jares vs. "Argentina" Antonino Rocca (2/3 falls—referee Mike Mazurki) + an interview with Rocca!

Vol. 22 The Great Togo & "Wild" Red Berry vs. Ernie & Emile Dusek (2/3 falls).

Vol. 23 Don Eagle vs. "Dangerous" Danny McShane. (2/3 falls).

Vol. 24 Ace Freeman vs. Billy Varga. Lou Thesz vs. Tom Rice.

Vol. 25 Bud Curtis vs. Alex Kasaboski. Andre Drapp vs. The Bushman. Lord James Blears & Dave Levin vs. Tony Morelli & Angelo Cistoldi.

Vol. 26 Jack MacDonald vs. Baron Leone. Chief Big Heart & The Great Scott vs. Dr. Jerry Graham & "Professor" Roy Shire.

Vol. 27 Tom Renesto vs. Butch Madre. Andre Drapp vs. Ace Freeman.

Vol. 28 Reggie Lisowski & Art Neilson vs. The Mighty Atlas & Billy Goelz.

Vol. 29 Cal Bowser vs. Bamboo Taboo. Women—Olga Baranoff vs. Hanka Kavetzka. John Milas, Amir Jojo, Bobby Bruns, and The Indian in a four-way elimination bout. Plus highlights of Carl Johnson vs. Chief Gray Wolf.

Vol. 30 The Great Togo vs. Vic Christy. Pat McGill vs. Enrique Torres.

Vol. 31 The Great Scott vs. Danny McShane (2/3 falls).

Vol. 32 Gorgeous George vs. Jesse James (2/3 falls).

Vol. 33 Fred Blassie vs. Mr. Moto (2/3 falls).

Vol. 34 "Wild" Red Berry vs. Fred Blassie (2/3 falls).

Vol. 35 Pacific Title: Baron Leone vs. Rito Romero (2/3 falls).

Vol. 36 Tony Morelli vs. Andre (Angelo) Poffo. "Wild" Red Berry vs. "Cyclone" Anaya (2/3 falls).

Vol. 37 Al & Ramon Torres vs. Art Mahalik & Mike Sharpe Sr. The Great John L. vs. Al Torres. Stan Halek vs. George Drake. WWA Title: Ed Carpentier vs. Art Mahalik.

Vol. 38 World Tag Trophy: Reg "The Crusher" Lisowski & Art Neilson vs. Rudy Kay & Benito Gardini. "Legs" Langevin vs. Pat O'Connor. Jerry Christy vs. Angelo Poffo.

Vol. 39 Pacific Title: Baron Leone vs. Fred Blassie (2/3 falls).

Vol. 40 "Wild" Red Berry & Bud Curtis vs. Great Bolo & Louie Miller (2/3 falls—two refs) + interviews!

Vol. 41 Mr. Moto vs. Wilbur Snyder (2/3 falls).

Vol. 42 Bob Korby vs. Don Lewin. Sandor Szabo vs. Roger Mackey (2/3 falls). Danny McShane vs. Gino Garibaldi.

Vol. 43 Dr. Lee Grable vs. Ivan the Terrible. Vic Christy vs. Hans Schnabel. World Title: Baron Leone vs. Billy Varga (2/3 falls).

Vol. 44 Hard-Boiled Haggerty vs. Mike Valentino. Don Eagle vs. Ramon Lopez. Don Arnold vs. Tarzan Tourville.

Vol. 45 Pat Fraley vs. Ken Kulkovich. Dave Levin vs. The Bushman. Tony Morelli & Anton Leone vs. The Garibaldi Brothers.

Vol. 46 Great John L. vs. Nick Bockwinkel. Mike Sharpe Sr. vs. Negro Guzman. Broadway Venus vs. Mr. Moto. Fred Blassie vs. Felipe Mendoza + interviews.

Vol. 47 Gorgeous George vs. Frank Talaber (2/3 falls, special referee Jack Dempsey).

Vol. 48 Rasputin vs. Jim Londos. Roy McClarity & Jack Guy vs. Kiman Kuda & Walter Achiu (2/3 falls elimination tag) + Jim Londos interview.

Vol. 49 Danny McShane vs. The Great Scott (2/3 falls) + an interview with McShane.

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MIKE'S MAILBAG

Send your comments & opinions to:
Michael O'Hara, Publisher
New Wave Wrestling
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Long Island City, NY 11103-0903

Dear Mike,

In answer to Rachel Collins' letter in ***NWW #39***, I fully agree that women's wrestling is in a disappointing state. I remember when a wrestler was known for her ability and not her implants. Evening gown matches and bikini contests are not true wrestling. Please Luna save the day!

Jim Blevins
Muncie, Indiana

Dear Mike,

What happened on May 23, 1999 in Kansas City to Owen Hart will haunt wrestling fans for the rest of their lives. His death is something that won't go away, but it will become easier to deal with in time.

Fans mourn his loss because he was a great competitor. It ran in the family. What I would like to see come from this tragedy is a fund set up to protect the wrestlers and their families.

The storylines might be made up but the injuries are not. Death is real and has a major impact on people.

No one should sit back and say let's ban pro wrestling. That won't solve the problem. We need to draw a fine line between what is real and what is fantasy. Promoters can put a price tag on entertainment, but when a wrestler's life is in jeopardy, they must be very careful. Promoters aren't taking the risks, the wrestlers are.

Carla Anderson
Southfield, Michigan

Dear Mike,

Owen Hart's death was a tragedy that could have been easily avoided. He was the sacrificial lamb for the wrestling industry. His passing is a dramatic wake-up call to all the wrestlers who put life and limb on the line every day for the sake of sports entertainment.

A true wrestling fan loves the sport itself. No fan wants to see an athlete permanently disabled or killed for a momentary thrill. Actions taken to the head and neck should be outlawed, such as piledrivers and chair shots to the head, as well as leaps and falls off the top of a steel cage and other similar stunts.

The wrestlers themselves must take a stand and state to the owners that they're not going going to take these risks. Nothing is worth losing your life over. Don't let Owen's death be in vain.

Owen's final message to us is most important. It is reflected by the ring attire he often wore which said: "Enough is enough and it's time for a change." Change should have taken place before we lost him.

We will all miss Owen and will never forget him.

Maria Russomando
Madison, New Jersey

Dear Mike,

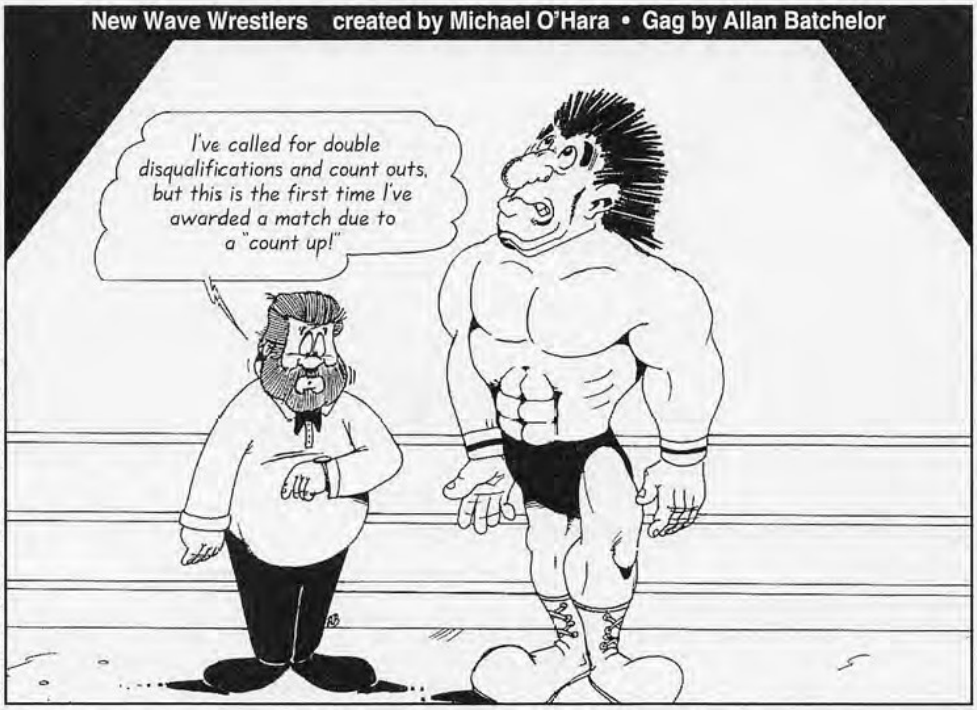
WCW needs to focus on the game of wrestling. Either let Master P and the No Limit Soldiers wrestle or get a song that pumps up all the fans. No disrespect to country or rap. I love Master P's music, but as a fan I want to see WCW come up with stories and great acts!

WWF rocks! I love all the wrestlers because they are all fun. WCW needs to get with the program.

Charnita Washington
Garland, Texas

Mike's Memo: In answer to Gary Gagné's *Pinfo* question, Bugsy McGraw's real name is Michael Davis. Many ***New Wavers*** tagged in with the answer, so a special thanks to John Fehir of Hamilton, Canada; Barry Gilbert of New Orleans, Louisiana; Graham Milano of Croton-on-Hudson, New York; and Dominick J. Valenti of Ozone Park, NY.

New Wave Wrestlers created by Michael O'Hara • Gag by Allan Batchelor



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PINFORMATION

Q: Is Terri Runnels' real name Alexandra York? Is she still married to "Goldust" Dustin Runnels? Is Glen Jacobs still Kane? Is Paul Bearer and Brother Love the same person?

Mike Sposetti
Campbell, Ohio

A: Alexandra York was the name Terri used as a WCW manager/valet. Runnels is her real married name. Her maiden name is Boatwright. Terri and Dustin are allegedly separated. A slimmed-down Glen Jacobs is still playing Kane. Paul Bearer (William Floyd) and Brother Love (Bruce Prichard) are not the same person.

—•—

Q: Can you give me any info on Billy Kidman? How is the Warrior doing? What happened to Brian Harris? Will he be returning soon?

Vicky Lunson
Sunbury, Australia

A: We hope to do a feature on Kidman (Peter Gruner) in one of our upcoming issues. The Warrior (Jim Hellwig) is fine and looking forward to competing again. Rumor has it that he'd like to invade ECW.

Brian "Chainz" Harris never left the wrestling business. He's been competing throughout the Northeast in the United States on the independent circuit and recently worked overseas. Just because you don't see a wrestler in the WWF or WCW doesn't mean they're not active. Keep reading our *Independent Scene* and *International Slams* features for news on your faves.

—•—

Q: Will Tatanka ever return to the WWF? Where has Bob Backlund been these days? Who was Golga from the Oddities? Where are the Oddities?

Laura McElroy &
Erin Miller
Stony Point, New York

A: Tatanka (Chris Chavis) has been competing almost exclusively in South Africa for the past 18 months.

A fighting fit Bob Backlund recently competed under the National Wrestling Alliance banner in New Jersey.

John "Earthquake" Tenta played Golga. His former Oddities teammates "Giant" Silva and Kurrgan are currently battling against one another in Mexico.

—•—

Q: What ever happened to D.C. Drake, Karl Krupp, Karl Kox, Angelo Mosca Jr., and Vic Steamboat?

Gary Gagné
Whittier, North Carolina

A: D.C. Drake retired from wrestling several years ago and is involved in real estate in Pennsylvania.

"Killer" Karl Krupp (George Momberg) passed away on August 24, 1995.

Karl Kox has retired and lives in either Florida or Texas.

Angelo Mosca Jr. had a brief wrestling career, and (I believe) lives in Ontario, Canada.

Vic Steamboat was last seen competing in the New England area several years ago. His whereabouts are unknown. Can any ***New Waver*** provide info?

—•—

Q: In answer to Tom Olson's question in the last issue, Alexis Smirnoff's real name is Michel Lamarche. He also wrestled under the name of Michel "Justice" Dubois during the seventies in Quebec before going to the United States in the eighties.

During the end of the 1980s a wrestler came to Montreal called Scott Duran. He teamed with a young Rick Steiner. Was he rookie Scott Steiner? Are Prince Iaukea and King Curtis related? Who were Agent Orange (early '90s), WCCW's Taras Bulba, and the USWA's Snowman?

Pierre Houde
St-Pierre, Quebec, Canada

A: Sorry about the Michael York/Smirnoff mix up last issue, gang. (I'm doing all the answers off the top of my head, so please bear with me.) Michel Lamarche sounds plausible, but I've also heard his real name is Michel Dubois. Once again, I'll tag out to any ***New Waver*** with the definitive answer!

I do know that King Curtis has a son named Rocky Iaukea who competed under the name of Prince Iaukea in the late 1980s, but that was definitely a different wrestler. I'm not sure about the new "Prince."

The Snowman was played by Edward Crawford.

I have no info on Scott Duran, Agent Orange, or Taras Bulba. ***New Wavers***—HELP!

—•—

Q: Was Glen Jacobs the new Diesel when Kevin Nash jumped ship? Did Jinzei Shinzaki (Hakushi) play Tenryu at the 1994 Royal Rumble? I thought Mike Plotchik was Bart Gunn and Kip Sopp was Billy. You posted them the other way around. Am I mistaken? Is the Ultimate Warrior a von Erich? Besides Sting and the Ultimate Warrior, who else was part of Red Bastien's Power Team USA? What ever happened to the WWF's 1995 New Generation–Waylon Mercy, Mantaur, Tekno Team 2000, Man Mountain Rock, Hakushi, T-L Hopper, and Who?

Dumbie Tumua
Long Beach, California

A: Yes. Glen Jacobs played the Diesel Doppëlganger. Shinzaki and Genichiro Tenryu are not the same guy.

Yes. Mike Plotchik is Bart Gunn and Monte "Kip" Sopp is Billy Gunn. In the words of Don Rickles—"Congratulations. You win a cookie."

The Warrior is not related to the von Erichs (Adkisson) family.

The other Power Team USA members were Glory (Garland Donohue) and Commando (Mark Miller).

Tekno Team's Erik Watts competes occasionally with WCW. Hakushi is active in Japan. T-L Hopper has resumed his Dirty White Boy character on the Southern circuits. The whereabouts of Waylon Mercy (Dan Spivey), Man Mountain Rock (Darryl Peterson), Mantaur, and Who (huh?) are unknown.

—•—

Q: Where are Kevin Nash, Kamala, Islander Toma, and Ax & Smash of Demolition these days? Where can I get the old WWF LJN action figures?

Billy Melidoneas
Brooklyn, New York

A: Kevin Nash took some time off. He should be back by the time you read this.

Kamala (Jim Harris) has retired and lives in Texas.

Toma works for the Anoai promotion in Connecticut.

Demolition Ax (Bill Eadie) still makes worldwide tours as well as works indie shows. Smash (Barry Darsow) can be found in WCW rings.

If you turn back to **page 20**, you'll find LJN figures galore.

—•—

Before mailing in your questions (and in an effort to avoid repetition), please reread your back issues of ***NWW*** for answers. If your questions are not addressed in this column, it's because we've probably answered them many times before in previous issues.

Send your questions to:
Michael O'Hara, Publisher
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That's all for this issue, ***New Waver***. Keep those positive waves, and good night, B.S. Pully, wherever you are!

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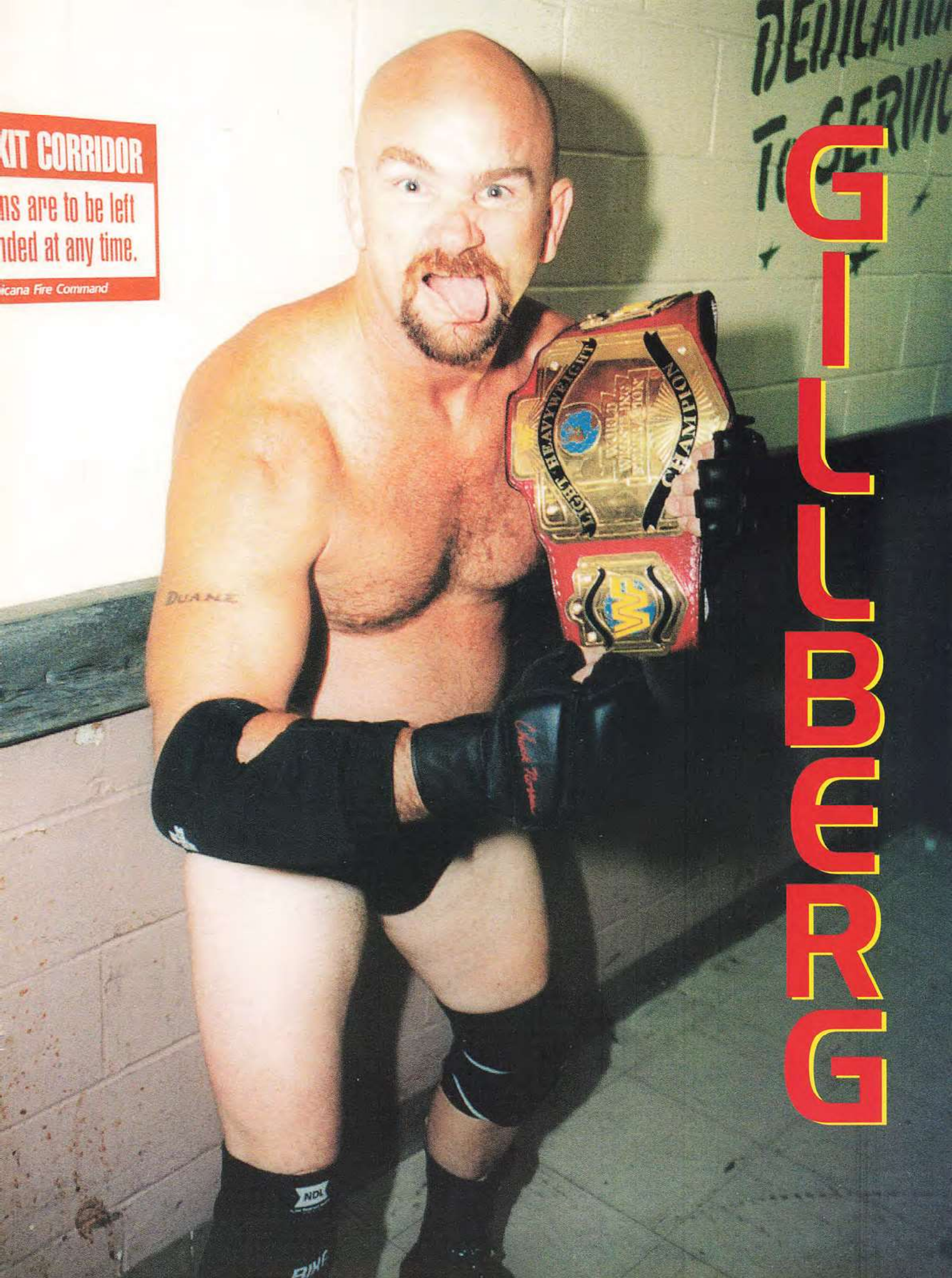
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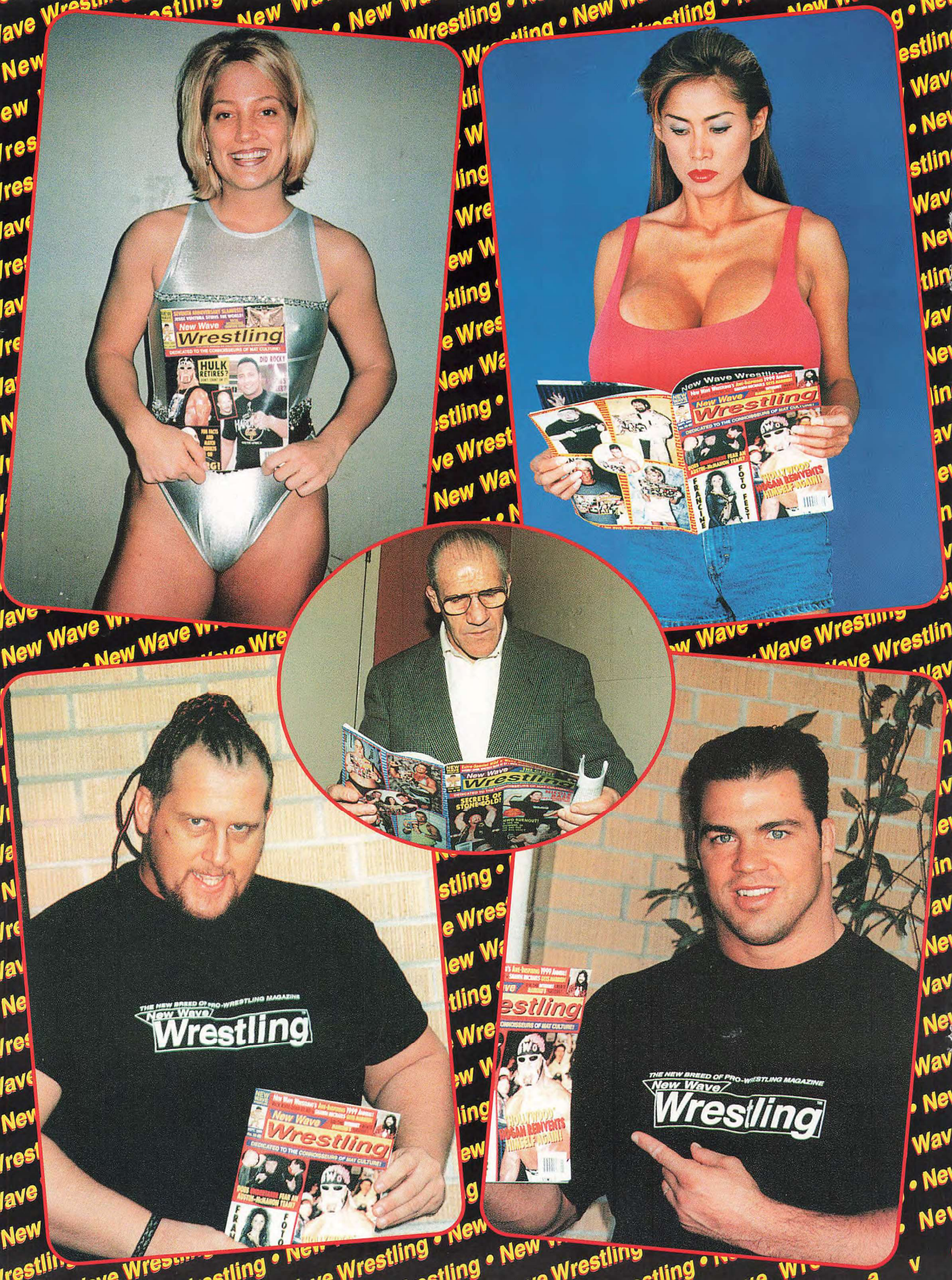
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